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60-DAY EXTENSION FOR LOAN PAYMENT OBTAINED

PY190150 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2308 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentina has obtained a 60-day extension to pay $750 million, which is part of a loan that was granted to the military government last year by a group of 320 international banks. It has also obtained a reasonable interest rate. This was revealed today by Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun to the members of the Coordinating Board for Mercantile Activities (CAME). He showed them a copy of the telex sent by those creditor banks indicating that they agreed to the extension and that it could be extended again for another 60 days.

FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER CONCLUDES VISIT

Meets With Peronist Leader

PY181625 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1438 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (NA) -- Former Peronist presidential candidate Italo Lucer today stated that if he had won the elections, the FRG would have given the same support to Argentina, because the FRG "does not interfere with the domestic affairs of any Latin American country." Luder commented at the end of a meeting with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, with whom he discussed, among other things, "the possibility of the EEC adopting more flexible regulations to allow Argentina to place its products on the EEC market."

At the end of the meeting, which lasted more than 45 minutes, the former provisional president told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "we discussed FRG-Latin American relations, particularly FRG relations with Argentina."

Luder said that during the meeting at the Plaza Hotel, "I stressed that Argentina must have an independent foreign policy which should serve national interests rather than ideologies."

Asked about the view that the FRG minister, of a liberal trend, had about the Justicialist Party, Luder said that "we did not discuss that subject, because we thought it would be untimely to talk about domestic politics."

Luder asserted that they focused on "international and economic matters," specifying that they discussed "the need to intensify trade relations between the two countries."

Asked whether the FRG would also have helped Argentina to renegotiate its foreign debt if the Peronist Party had won the elections, Luder answered: "Yes, of course." He asserted that "it would have been the same if I had been elected to the presidency because the FRG does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any Latin American country."

Holds Press Conference

PY180310 Buenos Airea TELAM in Spanish 0126 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has stated that Argentina's negotiations with the IMF concerning its foreign debt must take precedence over any other negotiation in this regard. Genscher added that "it is necessary to create an international image of credibility to attract investors and businessmen and convince them to reactivate their enterprises in Argentina." Genscher explained that in economics 50 percent of the game is psychological, thus the image of trustworthiness which Argentina can build for itself will be extremely helpful.

Later, the FRG foreign minister said: "My country will place its voice and vote, during the negotiations of the Paris Club, at the service of Argentina, because there is no interest in putting Argentina into a tight corner." He added: "We have given enough proof of what our goal will be by bringing along a delegation of businessmen among whom are representatives of FRG private banks."

Genscher made these remarks at a press conference which he held this afternoon at the FRG Embassy, whose buildings he officially dedicated just a few minutes after the press conference was over.

At the beginning of the meeting, he made a brief summary of his activities in Buenos Aires yesterday and today, of his meetings with President Alfonsin and Ministers Caputo and Grinspun.

He said: "We have come here not only to look around, but also as friends who want to help resolve Argentina's monetary and economic problems." He added: "We know that there is an indelible link between political stability, the cleaning up of the economy, and the implementation of social justice, because misery and desperation could lead people astray."

Genscher set forth a list of priorities which Argentina should follow in its attempts to renegotiate its foreign debt: first an agreement with the IMF; second an agreement with the Paris Club; third an agreement with the banks to which the state owes money; and fourth, and last, an agreement with the banks to which private debtors owe money.

He indicated that "our belief in the principles of market economy does not allow us to get involved in private affairs, but we are certain that this example will be followed and Argentina will reap its benefits in the near future."

Genscher repeatedly said that his government is absolutely convinced of the need to do everything possible to strengthen Argentine democracy.

Finally, regarding the foreign debt, he said that he knew that many of the loans which Argentina had asked for were not intended for investments.

Speaking about other topics and in response to questions, Genscher said that his country wishes to see a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Malvinas issue, but he refused to comment any further because "neither Argentina nor Great Britain, both friendly countries, have asked us to mediate in the conflict."

He went on to say that in his talks with the Argentine Government officials he met with total agreement on viewpoints regarding East-West relations, the Central American status quo, and all other high-level international issues.

He also revealed that he had invited his counterpart Caputo to visit the FRG and that similar invitations had been issued to the speakers of the two chambers of Congress.

Genscher emphasized that in a relatively short time the Argentine-FRG joint commission will meet to discuss economic, cultural, and technological issues so that when FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl comes to visit Buenos Aires in July this year, there will be a concrete agenda of projects to be carried out.

Genscher's press conference had a few touches of humor, including when he was asked about his talks with Italo Argentino Luder, with whom he had breakfast this morning. He said: "I am getting paid to take care of my country's diplomatic affairs, not to be the spokesman of the Argentine opposition; however part of my mission is to listen to the government and to the political parties which may have different ideas."

Genscher concluded by saying that tomorrow morning, shortly before leaving for the FRG at 1130, he will meet with relatives of persons missing during the antisubversive struggle.

Interviewed on Debt, Agriculture

PY180317 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Interview with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher by Roberto Maidana and interpreter on "30 Millones" program]

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin went early tonight to the FRG Embassy building which was officially inaugurated today. In the presence of FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a reception was given to Argentine authorities, diplomatic missions, and special guests. The FRG foreign minister granted this interview to us:

[Begin recording] [Maidana] You have mentioned the assistance the FRG will give Argentina in the negotiations over the foreign debt. Argentina has repeatedly stressed that it considers this a political more than an economic problem. If you, or your country's government, views it in the same way, into what kind of actions will that assistance be translated?

[Genscher, through interpreter] Argentina needs confidence to move along the path of democracy, it needs confidence in the development of its economy and in the resolution of its economic and financial problems. I believe that my visit now is an expression not only of political confidence, but also of economic confidence, because I am accompanied by a delegation of high-ranking representatives of the FRG economy. I also believe that the visit of our chancellor, which is scheduled for July, will also be further proof of this confidence. I told the Argentine Government that we will adopt a constructive position at the Paris Club where creditors negotiate government or government-guaranteed credits, so that we can make, through the foreign debt negotiations, a contribution to create a solid base for the economic recovery of Argentina.

[Maidana] You have also said something very interesting, that you estimate that the EEC, which has subsidy and restriction policies regarding products which Argentina traditionally exports, can change those policies. How can they be changed, Mr Genscher?

[Genscher] As you know, the EEC had in the past, especially in the agricultural market, financed the production of exportable surpluses with our own resources. Now we have made decisions that will reduce the production of surpluses. What this means is that the EEC in the future will not compete to the same extent as in the past with those countries which depend on the export of agricultural products more than the EEC does. This should certainly have positive repercussions in Argentina.

[Maidana] Lastly, I would like to request your answer on two subjects. One that is very sensitive for Argentina: the Malvinas. The other refers to the high significance your government attaches to the new democratic government headed by Raul Alfonsin.

[Genscher] I am very impressed by the firm posture of your president and his government in trying to resolve the Malvinas question, which is so important for Argentina, through political means. I believe this is the right way and a convincing proof of the peaceful policy of democratic Argentina. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Sums up Visit

LD181641 Hamburg DPA in German 1404 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (DPA) -- The dialogue between the Federal Republic of Germany and Argentina, which was interrupted during the military rule, has been reestablished. FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in Buenos Aires today at the end of his 4-day visit: "We came not only as observers, but also as friends, who want to help Argentina to resolve its financial and economic problems. We are leaving the country confident that Argentina will itself do everything possible to take its problems in hand." Argentina Foreign Minister Dante Caputo replied that Argentina was aware of the fact that the international community was placing great hopes in his country.

Economic policy and an international settlement of Argentina's foreign debts amounting to $43.6 billion were discussed at all meetings. The commitments to German banks amounted to eight percent of its foreign debt. According to Genscher, an agreement with the International Monetary Fund played a key role as far as the Federal Government and its promised assistance was concerned. Only then could it help.

Dialogue between Argentina and the Federal Republic is to be resumed as quickly as possible in the commissions for science, technology, economics, and culture. The results of the commissions are to be taken into consideration in preparations for the visit by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl 4-8 July.

The relatives of the 72 Germans and people of German origin who had disappeared during the bloody persecution of opponents to the regime throughout the seventies conveyed their concern to the federal foreign minister just before his return. Elena Marx, whose 28-year-old daughter disappeared after her arrest in August 1976, said: "We recognize the will of the new government under President Alfonsin. But we believe that the clarification is making only hesitant headway. So far the fate of not one of those who disappeared has been cleared up." Alfonsin gave the number of these as being more than 10,000. The mothers asked Genscher to see that the Federal Government exerted more influence on the Argentine Government than had previously been the case so that the course of justice might be accelerated.

Genscher was briefed the previous day by the chairman of the Argentinian Human Rights Commission, writer Ernesto Saboto, on the Commission's work. The Commission, which is to submit its report at the end of June, will apparently publish this 1 or 2 months later. "I gained the impression," said Genscher, "that the government and Human Rights Commission are trying resolutely to clear up the fate of those who have disappeared and provide the courts with the material necessary to convict the guilty."

Departs; Caputo Comments

PY182345 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2250 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today announced that the chancellor of the FRG, Helmut Kohl, will visit Argentina in July 1984, placing an emphasis on the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

This and other statements were made by the foreign minister at Ezeiza International Airport when he said goodbye to departing FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who visited our country from last Saturday until today at noon, when he departed for Bonn.

Caputo also said that Genscher's visit was extremely important, and that while he was here they discussed all the overall topics regarding international policy. Specific topics regarding bilateral relations were also discussed. He added that there was full agreement during the talks. This means an important step in the strengthening of the political ties between the two countries, and the visit of Helmut Kohl will be the next stage in the strengthening of these ties.

He pointed out the understanding that the German Government has for Argentina's political and economic situation and that he also believes that the good relations with the FRG will help our country in its negotiations for refinancing the debt with the Paris Club.

Finally, he denied that he was going to travel today or tomorrow to France and he stated that he would do so over the weekend, despite the fact that information was obtained at San Martin Palace that he would depart tomorrow, Thursday, at 1700 [2000 GMT] for the French capital.

ALFONSIN DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PROGRAM WITH BELGIAN

PY181700 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2010 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (TELAM) -- The cooperation Belgium may grant Argentina in the economic reactivation program was discussed today by President Raul Alfonsin and Belgian economist Paul Lejoure. The visitor, who is head of one of the most important Belgian enterprises, which controls 62 percent of Belgian national exports [as received], attended the meeting accompanied by Belgian Ambassador Maurice Seynave.

At the end of the meeting, Lejoure said that during his meeting with Alfonsin they discussed the cooperation that Belgium can grant Argentina regarding an economic reactivation program that President Raul Alfonsin has been promoting. He noted that he believes that Argentina is confronting technical problems, adding that the situation could not be in better hands.

Lejoure arrived in Argentina to establish a joint commission made up of Argentine and Belgian businessmen that will be in charge of the main aspects of the economic reactivation program at both the government and private level.

JUSTICIALIST PARTY HARSHLY CRITICIZES ALFONSIN

PY181757 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2323 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (NA) -- In a statement containing the harshest criticism against the Alfonsin administration since it assumed power, the Justicialist Party today requested the "immediate interpellation" of Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun regarding negotiations on the refinancing of the foreign debt.

In addition, the statement, which was issued tonight, notes that "the Peronist leadership's willingness to dialogue" cannot be interpreted as "an alleged acceptance of those commitments that President Alfonsin's administration is unilaterally adopting" or that it is accepting its "adjustment plans." The statement adds that Peronism has not supported the terms of the memorandum of understanding that Presidential adviser Raul Prebisch signed with the IMF, and it also denounces "the eventual undermining of our national sovereignty regarding nuclear policy."

It adds that "in view of this, the Justicialist Party National Board reasserts that its traditional aspiration to seek the unity of all sectors to achieve freedom does not mean that it is willing to hold a dialogue filled with prerequisites or that presupposes the acceptance or rejection of certain facts." The text of the statement reads as follows:

"The facts show that the official information supplied on the foreign debt by the executive branch and the economy minister contain certain ommissions and contradictions. Moreover, certain press reports have interpreted the Peronist leadership's willingness to dialogue as an alleged acceptance of those commitments that the Alfonsin administration has been unilaterally adopting, as well as of the eventual 'adjustment plan.' To avoid any confusion in this regard, the Justicialist Party National Board notes the following:

"1. That it has reasserted its full support for the position upheld by Justicialist legislators who have requested reports in this regard, and in this regard it is also anticipating any decision regarding the demand for an immediate interpellation of the economy minister.

"2. That the Peronist movement and its organizations have not expressed support for the terms of the so-called 'memorandum of understanding' that presidential adviser Raul Prebisch signed with the IMF or for the eventual undermining of our national sovereignty regarding nuclear policy.

"3. That the Peronist party has and continues to uphold in its platform that the national crisis should be confronted with a program that the national crisis should be confronted with a program that takes into account the view of political sectors and of the most important national sectors, since this is a prerequisite for any alternative aimed at solving problems affecting the foreign sector.

"4. Thus, the Justicialist Party National Board reasserts that its traditional aspiration to seek the unity of all sectors to achieve freedom does not mean that it is willing to hold a dialogue filled with prerequisites or that presupposes the acceptance or rejection of certain facts."

TRADE DELEGATION VISITS CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PY121443 Paris AFP in Spanish 1823 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Paris, 11 Apr (AFP) -- An Argentine delegation of congressmen, provincial governors, and businessmen has paid a visit to Czechoslovakia to explore the possibilities of increasing trade between the two countries. Humberto Sigal, Radical Civic Union senator for Chubut Province and chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, today revealed here the delegation's activities in that country.

Sigal said that they had visited a certain number of enterprises, especially the large Skoda establishments in Pilsen, where, among other things, parts for electricity and nuclear plants are manufactured.

Edgardo Grosso, deputy governor of Cordoba Province, explained that his province, which has organized a Foreign Trade Ministry, could exchange automotive parts for CSSR technology for the overall development of gas in our generating plants. Misiones Province Governor Ricardo Barrios Errechea and approximately 50 businessmen were also part of the delegation.

LECHIN ON MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

PY180208 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpts] COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] representatives have said that they have held a busy meeting with members of the government's economic team. COB leader Juan Lechin said that the ministers accepted the objectives of the COB emergency plan but that they questioned its feasibility. He also reported that COB representatives pointed out that it is necessary to implement the COB plan now.

Asked about the critical situation that Bolivia is experiencing, Lechin said that the economic measures adopted by the government have caused the situation to worsen. He also said that workers will defend the current democratic process, which at any rate, is under different kinds of threats.

ECONOMIC MEASURES AWAKEN WORKERS DISCONTENT

PY181411 [Editorial Report] La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 18 April carries several reports on the aftermath of the latest economic package enacted by the government.

In La Paz a meeting sponsored by the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] began at 1430 on 17 April and, according to the announcer, was followed by a march during which no incidents were reported. The announcer reports that the thousands of workers who attended the meeting noisily booed COB leaders in a gesture of hostility toward the labor organization.

The report includes recorded excerpts of the speeches delivered by some leaders during the meeting. The speeches are frequently interrupted by shouts from the crowd. The announcer notes that "in view of the hostility that the workers who gathered at Plaza San Francisco showed toward COB leaders, and since they were constantly booed by the crowd, the COB leaders decided to end the march." The announcer then reports that the Potosi COB branch sponsored a march which was staged on 17 April in that city, and that during the march workers condemned the latest economic measures and "demanded the holding of an indefinite general strike." The announcer adds that no incidents were reported.

The announcer also reports that "in a public statement, the Federation of Peasant Workers of Santa Cruz northern provinces demanded the immediate resignation of President Hernan Siles Zuazo on charges that he is unable to lead the destiny of the fatherland."

Finally, the Revolutionary Workers Party, POR, issued a document which, according to the announcer, harshly criticizes the COB leadership because of its campaign against the POR. The announcer also reports that the POR document notes that "the rightist Siles, shielded by leftist sectors, is carrying out a policy that aims to discharge the entire burden of the bourgeois crisis on the shoulders of the have-nots."

RESIDENTS TO BLOCKADE ROADS, GAS PIPELINE

PY190230 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The presidents of the Yacuiba and Villa Montes civilian committees have told a Cadena Panamericana reporter that today, Wednesday, at 0000, a general indefinite stoppage started in the towns of Yacuiba, Villa Montes, El Palmar, Campo Pajoso, and (San Jose Pocitos) as a protest against the recent economic measures enacted by the Siles Zuazo government, especially because of the (?prices) set for border areas in Bolivia, and finally because this area, which was severely hit by natural disasters, has been neglected so far.

It was learned that the stoppage will also include the closure of the valves of the gas pipeline to Argentina and the blockade of roads and railroads in general.

We reiterate that the Yacuiba and Villa Montes residents have decided to shut the valves of the gas pipeline to Argentina starting this Thursday at 0900 because the requests made by this sector of the country were not duly looked into by government officials.

The closure of the valves will cause a loss of approximately $1 million to the Bolivian treasury.

ILLEGAL ARMS DISCOVERED IN LIBYAN PLANE

PY191254 Paris AFP in Spanish 0409 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 18 Apr (AFP) -- The Trompillo Airport in Santa Cruz, 100 km east of La Paz, was tonight occupied by members of a civic organization known as the Santa Cruz Youth Union who are protesting the arrival of a Libyan plane of French registry which tried to bring arms into Bolivia illegally. Members of the organization told AFP that the plane's crew, their identities are not known, has said that they were carrying donated medicines. However, modern machine guns were found when customs officials opened the plane's cargo bay.

Government sources said that the shipment was not for the Army, but for the police, while the Santa Cruz Youth Union said the arms were consigned to leftist subversive groups.

The problem is being analyzed at meetings in which Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata and military commanders are participating.

EMERGENCY MEASURES SET FOR BRASILIA, GOIAS

PY182247 Paris AFP in Spanish 2159 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Apr (AFP) -- It was officially announced tonight that Brazilian President General Joao Figueiredo decreed emergency measures that will be implemented for 60 days in this capital and in 10 cities of Goias State that are close to the City of Brasilia. Despite the fact that up to the present time the causes that have provoked this decision have not been announced, official sources have reported that the measures have been implemented to prevent pressure being applied on members of Congress, who on 25 April will vote on a constitutional amendment, submitted by the opposition, that calls for the immediate reestablishment of direct elections for president.

This is the second time that a measure of this type has been implemented since 13 October 1978, when the constitutional amendment that authorizes the chief of state to decree emergency measures and the state of siege and state of emergency was approved.

[Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese at 2200 GMT on 18 April during the course of its regular newscast notes the following in its headlines: "Emergency measures have been decreed," but does not elaborate further during newscast]

SENATE PRESIDENT: VOTE MOST LIKELY ON 26 APRIL

PY190045 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 18 Apr 84 p 1

[Excerpts] Brasilia (DAILY POST) -- Senator Moacyr Dalla, president of the federal Congress, said Tuesday that the Dante de Olivera amendment, which re-establishes direct elections for President Figueiredo's successor may only be voted on April 26 instead of April 25, as originally scheduled. Dalla said that normally two congressional sessions of approximately four hours each are required for debates on a constitutional amendment before voting begins. This means there would be one session in the morning and another in the afternoon of the 25th, with voting taking place on the same day. However, the senator predicted that dozens if not hundreds of members of the opposition parties and the PDS [Social Democratic Party] pro-direct elections group will want to take the podium and express their views, and that therefore April 25 would be dedicated to speeches and the actual voting would be postponed until the following day.

Rio Governor Leonel Brizola said he didn't believe Congress would reject the Dante de Oliveira amendment. After Sao Paulo's monster rally, the largest of all time, "any deputy or senator will think twice before withdrawing from Congress or voting against the amendment," he said. Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro said that no matter what the government amendment proposes, the population will not change its stand in favor of "direct elections now."

Vice President Aureliano Chaves said that, although he is still in favor of the Dante de Oliveira amendment, he considers the government's alternative amendment "an important effort for an ample, nationwide agreement." Noting that "this is not the time for intransigence but conciliation," Chaves called on the opposition to "appraise the government amendment to decide what it will or will not accept." He stressed, however, that if no understanding is reached between the government and opposition, he would continue supporting "direct elections now."

Presidential spokesman Carlos Atila said that Figueiredo was prepared to negotiate certain items of the amendment with the opposition, but not the date of a return to direct elections. Some PDS politicians have said, however, that the date might be changed from 1988 to 1986.

TEACHERS STRIKE CONTINUES IN SAO PAULO

PY121715 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 12 Apr 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo (DAILY POST) -- Sao Paulo's state school teachers continued on strike for higher wages Wednesday, and negotiations with the government's salary policy committee were scheduled to resume this morning at the Bandeirantes Palace. Approximately 95 percent of the state teachers went on strike last week, demanding 70 percent salary increases instead of the 10 percent offered by the government, a figure they consider ridiculous.

The school teachers, who held a public demonstration at Ibirapuera Park followed by a march to the legislative assembly Wednesday, are expected to present the government with a new salary proposal at today's meeting. If no satisfactory agreement is reached, the teachers are planning to hold a massive demonstration with some 200,000 people in front of the Bandeirantes Palace on Friday.

A top palace source said Governor Franco Montoro will try to prevent the striking school teachers from holding the demonstration by placing civil and military police at strategic points of access to the government headquarters. Montoro has repeatedly said that the state government is unable to give the teachers more than it has offered already, noting that the 10 percent raise along "will cost Sao Paulo Cr$100 billion."

Thousands of Teachers March

PY150005 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo (DAILY POST) -- Thousands of Sao Paulo's state school teachers, on strike for over a week, Friday marched on the Bandeirantes Palace, where they staged a massive but peaceful and orderly demonstration.

The demonstration began with the reading of an open letter to the population by Gumercindo Milhomem Neto, president of the Sao Paulo State Teachers Association (ACEOESP) and leader of the so-called "Strike Command." The letter, in which the teachers state their demands, was repeatedly read throughout the demonstration.

A military police shock battalion which had been posted outside the gates of the palace was later restricted to the garage entrance, after several PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] members made an appeal to Governor Franco Montoro. The PMDB has been acting as mediator between the teachers and the government's salary policy committee for a better wage agreement. Several points of access to the governor's palace were initally barred by civil and military police but were liberated later at the governor's request due to the peaceful nature of the demonstration.

BRIEFS

CASTOR BEAN OIL CAR FUEL -- Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves has inspected two Fiat cars with engines using castor bean oil as fuel. The technology was developed by the Minas Technological Center Foundation, with support from the Fiat company and the Industry and Trade Ministry. [Summary] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Apr 84 PY]

GOVERNMENT REJECTS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CRITICISM

PY182240 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpts] In Chile, there are no concentration camps or arbitrary detentions, and all the people who are under arrest are subject to trial with full guarantees that they will have a fair trial. All these statements are contained in a statement issued by the Chilean Government which rejected a resolution issued by the European Parliament. Carmen Castro will now further expand on this subject, for the Cooperativa news program:

[Begin Castro recording] Good afternoon, Sergio. Through an official statement, the Chilean Government has energetically reiterated its disapproval concerning the competence of the European Parliament to meddle in Chilena domestic affairs, and denounced the false report approved on 13 April 1984. This statement was released today by the Chilean Foreign Ministry and is meant as a response to the criticism leveled by the European Parliament against Chile concerning the economic actions carried out by the Chilean Government, the layoffs, and what the European Parliament has termed as a persistence of the [present] state of law and the lack of certain personal and constitutional rights in Chile. In this regard, the Chilean Foreign Ministry has released a statement which was delivered by Ambassador (Mario Cisternas) to (Peter Danskens), who is the representative of the president of the European Parliament. In this statement, it is noted that there is meddling in Chilean affairs, something which is improper since Chile has not failed to recognize the EEC and, under these circumstances, the European Parliament should not make any statements on Chilean affairs. [end recording]

PRESIDENT OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE MEETS PINOCHET

PY181450 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Yesterday Msgr Bernardino Pinera, president of the Episcopal Conference, expressed hope in the future of Chile upon leaving La Moneda Palace after meeting with President Pinochet. Msgr Pinera, who was accompanied by the Santiago archbishop and vice president of the Episcopal Conference, met for 1 hour with the chief of state. After the meeting, Msgr Pinera reported that a conversation was held with the president. He said: We conveyed to the president some of the concerns we have heard throughout the country. We exchanged ideas with the president.

JARPA HARSHLY CRITICIZED BY FORMER PARTISANS

PY180045 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1706 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 17 Apr (EFE) -- Chilean Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa was harshly criticized today by the National Party -- Jarpa had once been president of the National Party -- calling recent remarks he made "unfortunate." Last week Jarpa criticized the institutional normalization proposal presented by the National Party, which he headed during the period before the fall of Salvador Allende's government. The National Party leaders had proposed a democratic normalization timetable including a plebiscite to amend the current Constitution and the election of a National Congress before 1985. Jarpa has decried the proposal of his partisans, whom he accused of being just a group of persons with no representativeness.

The National Party leaders responded today to Jarpa expressing their "surprise because the minister did not give a profound opinion but instead decided to avert any kind of debate by disqualifying the representativity of the National Party and discrediting its leaders."

The National Party leaders also expressed surprise over remarks made by Jarpa who recently invited them to "La Moneda" Palace (government presidential palace) to express their ideas on the country's institutional future.

The National Party stated that the representativeness of the parties is given by Chileans through free, secret, and publicized elections, for which they have proposed congressional elections in 1985. In any case, they added, "our current Constitution does not give the interior minister the power to become a valid arbiter, and his opinion contrary to the National Party's proves that his judgment is biased and lacks objectivity."

Expressing their "solidarity" with the military government which emerge in September 1973, the National Party leaders expressed "support to all democratic sectors" and made a call to "avoid making hasty remarks as those made by Minister Jarpa."

After the political opening initiated in August 1983 by Jarpa himself, and regardless of the reorganization of his former party, the minister maintains closer ties with the "National Unity Movement," in which several former congressmen and leaders of the old National Party are registered. Other National Party leaders also moved to other groups of the current political right, such as the "National Action Movement," whose top leaders are the former press secretary of General Pinochet, Federico Willougbhy, and attorney Pablo Rodriguez.

CTC REJECTS STOPPAGE DESPITE SUPPORT FOR CNT

PY142330 Paris AFP in Spanish 1735 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Today the Directive Council of the powerful Copper Workers Confederation (CTC) decided to reject a national strike planned against the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet. The strike is sponsored by the National Workers Command (CNT) headed by Rodolfo Seguel. The CTC Directive Council said that the conditions for a national strike do not yet prevail.

The official CTC report summarized the long debate held by copper leaders Friday by saying that a decision was made that the copper mines (the main source of foreign currency for the country) cannot be paralyzed. The CTC meeting was held a day before a union assembly was called by the CNT to set the date for the strike.

The CTC decision not to join the eventual strike was considered a setback for the anti-government forces. However, a CTC leader who attended the meeting said that the CTC is not against the possibility of creating favorable conditions for a strike in the future. It was disclosed that the CTC, which has about 12,000 members distributed in four large mines, continues to support the activities of the CNT, an organization which holds the military government responsible for the serious crisis of unemployment, indebtedness, and the decline in production which is affecting the country.

More on Rejection

PY141358 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Directive Council of the Copper Workers Confederation [CTC] has decided to reject the stoppage. It should be noted that the stoppage has been proposed by various political and labor sectors as a way to pressure for a change of government. However, the rejection of a stoppage, decided by the CTC leaders, is new evidence of the refusal of these leaders to let the workers be used in political party maneuvers.

NEW TRADE UNION GROUP SEEKS TO JOIN CNT

PY140101 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Emilio Torres, president of the recently created United Trade Union Movement [MSU], has said that if the National Workers Command [CNT] decides not to admit his group as members, the MSU will continue working to fulfill the objectives drawn at the meeting held in Punta de (Tranca). Torres added that the MSU will not act as a parallel organization and that it will support the decisions that the CNT makes.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET SIGNS NUCLEAR SAFETY LAW

PY171330 Santiago Domest : Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] President Augusto Pinochet has signed the nuclear safety law during a ceremony held in La Moneda Palace. The Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission [CCEN] will implement the law which has six chapters. The law establishes a system by which the CCEN will carry out safety control measures at nuclear plants.

MIR MEMBERS FACE COURT MARTIAL IN URZUA'S DEATH

PY181454 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr

[Text] The Court of Appeals has rejected a petition to deny the jurisdiction of military courts, submitted by members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] who have been accused of murdering Santiago Intendant General Carol Urzua and his two aides. The rejection was a unanimous decision by the members of the Eighth Court of Appeals.

The persons affected by this court decision are MIR members Jorge Palma Donoso, Carlos Araneda Miranda, and Hugo Marchanta Moya who are accused of instigating and committing the crime. The other persons involved in the crime are Marta Silva Soto Gonzalez and Susana Capriles Rojas.

The petition submitted on behalf of the accused was aimed at preventing them from being processed by a court martial according to wartime rules. The resolution made by the Eighth Court of Appeals will allow General Samuel Rojas, commander of the 2d Army Division, to call a court martial to judge the accused.

Hunger Strike Staged

PY180100 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Eighteen relatives of political prisoners have started a hunger strike in the San Francisco Church. They explained that their aim is to express concern over the decision to court martial several persons charged with involvement in the killing of Carol Urzua, former intendant of Santiago. The prosecutor has asked that Jorge Palma, Hugo Marchanta, and Carlos Araneda be sentenced to death.

The 18 relatives, 14 of whom are women and 4 men, have been inside the church since yesterday. They indicated that they hope to disturb religious ceremonies as little as possible in the next few days, but they must draw attention to the situation which has caused them so much concern. They feel that because of the summary manner in which court martials are held, the defense does not have much of a chance.

UNION LEADERS LAWYER ATTACKED, CONDITION SERIOUS

PY140117 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Attorney (Luis Leon Lisboa), who was attacked last night in the city of Rancagua, is in serious condition. (Leon) acted as attorney for the El Teniente district union leaders, who were to be laid off from their jobs.

CARABINEROS RAID HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICES; 7 HELD

PY190124 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Arbitrariness and forcefulness are once again wearing on a human rights organization just because it incurred the crime of reporting and denouncing the outrages that the Chilean people suffer. This is how a CODEPU [Committee for the Defense of the People's Rights] statement begins. CODEPU's headquarters, located on 55 Brasil Street in Santiago, were raided this morning at approximately 1030 by Carabineros and three plainclothesmen. Seven persons were arrested and driven away.

According to the statement issued by the committee for the defense of human rights [as heard], the repression, tortures, renewed banishments, expulsions, the persecution of opposition leaders, labor union leaders, neighborhood leaders, and especially all those who are opposing the court martial, once again proves that we are living in a tense atmosphere. CODEPU denounces the outrage committed against its coworkers. This way, they seek to paralyze us by terrorizing us, but that will not stop us and we will keep working so that more justice, freedom, and democracy prevail, CODEPU states.

Among the detainees, for whom an injunction has already been filed, are: CODEPU's assistant (Luis Roco), (Renate Tancour), (Jimena Opazo), (Manuela Leiva Letelier), a daughter of Fabiola Letelier, (Dante Ruiz), (Emily Dob), and the social worker (Patricia Gonzalez). All of them are being held in detention at the Carabineros 3d precinct.

CARABINEROS DISCOVER ILLEGAL PRINTING SHOP

PY181915 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Carabineros have discovered an illegal printing shop where subversive literature was being printed. The shop is located at 55 Brasil Street in Santiago. The police found large quantities of literature and printing material. At noon today the shop was still surrounded by the police, while investigations were being carried out. There are no reports on arrests or on the ownership of the shop.

ARMY SERGEANT KILLED BY 'EXTREMISTS' IN PUDAHUEL

PY161225 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0259 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 15 Apr (EFE) -- Chilean Army Sergeant Carlos Meza Henriquez died today of a bullet wound he received in the predawn hours while on a military patrol mission. According to the state news agency ORBE, the event took place at 0300 local time (0700 GMT), in Pudahuel, southeast of Santiago.

A military patrol ordered a group of suspicious-looking persons to halt, who then fired gunshots at the patrol while attempting to escape, fatally injuring Sgt Meza. The patrol, headed by Captain Julio Diaz, managed to apprehend the man who fired the shots. He was identified as Luis Arriagada, and his 22-caliber revolver was confiscated. Arriagada was placed at the disposal of Carabineros.

BOMB EXPLOSION AT MOTHERS CENTERS IN PUDAHUEL

PY181348 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Subversives have exploded a bomb in the facilities of the Mothers Centers in Pudahuel. The explosion took place at 2215 last night in the building located at 1024 Bernardo O'Higgins Street in Pudahuel, causing considerable damage to the front door and the windows. Members of Carabineros and security forces are carrying out an investigation to find the people responsible for the explosion.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET ON ANTARCTIC POLICY, GOALS

PY131715 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 4

[By special correspondent Raul Rojas]

[Excerpts] Chilean Antarctic Territory (Teniente March Base) -- "The creation of more Chilean bases toward the South Pole will begin this year." This was said by President General Augusto Pinochet during a meeting he had with the 11 journalists, who covered his trip to the Antarctic, just before departing the white continent. The chief of state said: "At this time the Teniente Marsh Base is the pivot in the Chilean Antarctic. The village of Las Estrellas is the first small village that has been created. This village will continue to grow and it will be the base for further exploration toward the South Pole. Our goal is the South Pole."

Asked whether Chile's presence in the Antarctic should be based more on facts than on treaties, he answered: "On both. In the first place we must realize our penetration projects in this still unexplored continent. We must dedicate ourselves to concrete events, we must install the new bases that have been planned, and they will be occupied by members of the Armed Forces in a peaceful way." He recalled that the Antarctic Treaty expires in 1992 and that current interests concentrate on scientific work and prospecting work that has yielded some results. He concluded by insisting on the need for advancing toward the South Pole for which the Teniente Marsh Base will be the center of operations.

NAVY TO RECEIVE 2 NEW SUBMARINES, DESTROYER

PY121531 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The Navy will receive three new ships during the second half of this year. They are a light destroyer armed with Exocet missiles and two submarines. This report has been released in Talcahuano by Rear Admiral Osvaldo Schwarzemberg, commander of the 2d Naval Zone.

He said that Navy Commander and member of the Government Junta Admiral Jose Toribio Merino will make a 3-day visit to the zone. In addition to dedicating the sea products fair -- EXPOMAR -- Adm Merino will take the opportunity to visit some fishing industries, because he is very interested in learning about the level of development reached in the production sector during the past few years.

Commander Schwarzemberg also stressed the technological development level achieved by ASMAR [Naval Docks and Yards] which, after the construction of two boats and now the launching of the barge Chacabuco, has saved $1 million.

He also announced that in July 1984 he will be transferred to the fifth region of Iquique, in Valparaiso.

LLOREDA CITED ON CONTADORA-U.S.-CUBAN TALKS

PA181929 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1821 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota, 18 Apr (DPA) -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo today announced that the Contadora Group foreign ministers (Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama) will meet on an unspecified date with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The foreign minister said at a news conference that "neither the date nor the agenda to be discussed with President Reagan and Cuban President Fidel Castro have been decided upon."

He said, "Anyway, these meetings will be held after the meeting that the Contadora foreign ministers will hold in Panama with the foreign ministers of the five Central American countries."

Diplomatic sources in Bogota said today it is unlikely that the U.S. President would agree to meet with President Castro and the Contadora Group, although the meeting would be desirable.

A Colombian Foreign Ministry spokesman told DPA that "Contadora is now experiencing a crucial point in its mediation process. If Contadora does not achieve any positive results to stop the war in Nicaragua, the group will have outlived its usefulness." He stated, however, that the four governments that make up the Contadora Group "are optimistic regarding what might happen in the next few days."

SOVIET MIXED COMMISSION TO STUDY BILATERAL TRADE

PA190337 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota -- The third session of the Colombian-Soviet intergovernmental mixed commission will be held on Monday, 23 April, in Bogota to study bilateral trade, financial, and industrial matters. According to a report of the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute [INCOMEX], the mixed commission will discuss the lists of products for bilateral exchange, the current status of Colombian exports to the Soviet market, and subjects dealing with the financial, transportation, maritime, and mining and petroleum exploitation fields.

The Colombian delegation will be led by INCOMEX Director Gustavo Tobon Londono, Colombian Ambassador to the USSR Edmundo Lopez Gomez, and high-ranking officials of the Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Mines and Energy, Public Works, and Agriculture Ministries. It will also include experts of the Export Promotion Fund, the National Planning Department, the Bank of the Republic, the Industrial Development Institute, CORELCA [Electric Corporation of the Atlantic Coast], INDERENA [Institute for Development of Renewable Resources], INGEOMINAS [Geological Mining Research Institute], the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, National Federation of Colombian Coffee Growers, Gran Colombiana Merchant Fleet, National Railroads, and Financial Corporation for Transportation.

PATRIA EDITORIALS SCORE RECENT CHURCH HOMILY

PY132025 [Editorial Report] In its 13 April 1984 issue the newspaper PATRIA, the Colorado Party organ, carries four articles which criticize the recent homily issued by Asuncion Archbishop Ismael Rolon, suggesting that it promotes "discord" among Paraguayans.

In a 500-word editorial, Deputy Oscar Zacarias Cubilla expresses his "concern" over situations that "may result in conflicting attitudes among practicing Catholics." He adds that it is obvious we are confronting an issue that demands "serious reflection" among Paraguayans. Zacarias Cubilla notes that "as politicians, we openly repudiate any effort -- no matter how well intentioned it alleges to be -- to undermine the spiritual unity" of our people.

On the same issue, Oscar Sarubbi Zacarias signs a 400-word editorial in which he notes that it is very worrisome and dangerous when it is a priest who "sows discord" and "sows hatred among brothers and, consequently, separates them from the path of the Lord."

Gil Gonzalez, in a 1,500-word article, is concerned about the "mission of the pastor as a beader of souls." He notes that the pastors are "priests and religious people, they are not social or political leaders, nor are they officials of a transitory power." He then mentions several quotes from Pope John Paul's speeches and homilies regarding this topic. Gil Gonzalez then expresses his concern about the fact that the church appears to be depicting Jesus as a politician and a revolutionary, while the Gospel demonstrates that this is not so. He then reviews some of the incursions of the representatives of the church into the political arena.

Then he states: "Now that the place that ABC COLOR had in the task of subversion has been neutralized, subversion is now emerging with new formulas to defend the space that it had won by ideological extremism and to do so it is using the force of its deep penetration within the church hierarchy." He then indicates that this is dangerous, because the Paraguayan people are Catholics who identify with the Colorado Party.

Gil Gonzalez also expressed his concern about the fact that some priests have perversely asked whether it is the interior minister who should be believed or Msgr Rolon. He then scores this perversity because it harms the humble people, who are very religious and faithful to their party, and because the consequences can be disastrous. He notes that after the newspaper ABC COLOR was closed, the opposition plot against the government has had to continue with its attempts to influence the masses through the newspaper SENDERO which, even though published as the mouthpiece of the Paraguayan Episcopal Commission, has always identified itself with the objectives of the opposition. Gonzalez remarks that, unfortunately, SENDERO will be published under the protection and support of the people of ABC COLOR, and that the public is already aware of this. He says that such are the comments circulating in the streets and that the church must provide an explanation in this regard. He goes on to say that if these comments are true, the people's speculation that the archbishop's letter was sort of an "advance" to compensate for a future reciprocal action would seriously impair the image of the church in Paraguay.

In addition, Gonzalez quotes reliable sources as reporting that the 60-day self-imposed closure of SENDERO was prompted precisely by the discovery of infiltrated Marxists in its structure, despite the fact, Gonzalez points out, that church officials later said that there was no infiltration within the church.

He concludes saying that matters should return to their normal channels, that calm should be restored, because it is the only way to maintain the unity of the family and its faith in religion.

In a 300-word editorial, Facundo E. Recalde indicates that it is not a question of "not letting a priest have his option to belong to a political party or talk about politics," because a priest is as human as anyone. "But, this should not happen in church. Nor from the pulpit. Nor when mass is being said." He then explains why politics should not emerge from the church and criticizes Msgr Rolon for having ordered the homily, calling it one-sided and indicating that he is personally disillusioned with the fanaticism of the top pastor of the national church.

Church Hierarchy Responds

PY162205 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 14

[Text] The Episcopal Council of the Asuncion Archbishopric, headed by Msgr Ismael Rolon, has released a declaration rejecting the lies and affronts disseminated against the Catholic Church and its authorities in a "campaign of unusual violence through newspapers and some radio stations." The declaration was read yesterday in all churches within the jurisdiction of the Archbishopric, at the end of the eucharist celebrations, by order of the Metropolitan Curia. The text of the Episcopal Council declaration reads as follows:

"The public generally, and all citizens, are astounded by the campaign of unusual violence carried out through newspapers and some radio stations. The work of the church has been attacked with an absolute lack of respect for truth and justice. The archbishop of Asuncion and other members of the church hierarchy have been insulted. This campaign also seeks to pit the pope's teachings and the venerable figure of Msgr Juan Sinforiano Bogarin against the preachings and testimony of our pastors.

"On behalf of all priests, of the secular and regular clergy, the Episcopal Council of the Archbishopric deplores this campaign of confusion, and rejects the affronts and slanders disseminated against the church. It expresses its conscientious and filial support to Msgr Ismael Rolon and to the church hierarchy, also expressing its firm decision to engage all its efforts in the evangelization of our people."

APRA'S GARCIA ON NEW CABINET, CURRENT SITUATION

PY170210 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Alan Garcia Perez, secretary general of the APRA Party [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance], has said that his party will struggle at the side of the government for the strengthening of democracy. Garcia made this statement on his return from a trip to Europe and Asia and he also called on all oppostion parties and the Peruvian people to make their criticisms in a mature and patriotic way.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] I visited Mexico at the invitation of Televisa, the national television network, to participate in two programs that dealt with the external debt of Latin America and the integration of our countries. These programs have been broadcast in Mexico and over 52 Latin stations in the United States.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your opinion of the new cabinet that is headed by Sandro Mariategui?

[Garcia] As a Peruvian I have the hope that there will be a slight improvement in the situation. The new cabinet must act correctly and evaluate the mistakes that have been made. It is a cabinet that has been named in order to implement some emergency measures, to carry out an urgent salvage operation from the serious errors that have been committed during the past 4 years.

It is not a government that will implement a new government program, because that is impossible with elections only 1 year away. Concrete measures must be implemented and we are waiting to see what the cabinet says. A lot water has passed under the bridge and we are waiting for Messrs Mariategui and Benavides Munoz to inform the country about the outlines of the reactivation of the country's economic policy.

[Reporter] Within this framework, does the APRA mean to contribute with an eye to improving Peru's current economic situation?

[Garcia] We, with nationalism and patriotism, are going to submit alternatives which we hope the government will accept.

This is a dramatic situation for the country. We now have the crisis of the party in government, the parties in government added to the economic crisis and this is a dramatic event that could place the country's political stability in danger. It is my belief that the political parties must act with great responsibility and that the people must maintain a positive attitude regarding the country's future. [end recording]

TERRORIST ATTACKS SAID ORGANIZED ABROAD

PY180308 Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 17 Apr (AFP) — War Minister General Oscar Brush stated today that the Peruvian intelligence services are investigating the possibility that a series of terrorist attacks which took place last night and today in this capital were organized by foreign subversive groups.

A dozen dynamite explosions, some of the dynamite bombs contained sharpnel, occurred last night throughout Lima. Another five explosions this morning resulted in one person being injured [words indistinct] building in the neighborhood of the town hall and a park close to the residence of the U.S. ambassador.

Gen Brush told journalists today that in view of the way the attacks had taken place they do not seem to have been carried out by the Maoist group Shining Path, because those people are ruthless murderers. This group has been carrying out terrorist attacks throughout Peru and a guerrilla war in the southeastern Andean region for 3 years now.

On mentioning the possibility that the attacks had been instigated or organized from abroad, Gen Brush indicated that the M-19 of Colombia, or the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] of Chile could be involved.

He added that it is presumably a joint strategy of international communism with an eye to achieving a totalitarian hegemony in the continent.

MAYOR OF AYACUCHO TOWN MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD

PY181456 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The Leoncio Prado [in Ayacucho Department] mayor has been murdered in the presence of his family. Two hooded individuals shot to death Leoncio Prado Mayor Tito Jaime Fernandez when he was leaving his home located along the first block of [street name indistinct].

The murder occurred at 1945 last night, when two individuals intercepted Fernandez and, without saying anything, opened fire. The mayor only said: I have not done anything.

Fernandez was murdered in the presence of his wife and other members of his family, who could do nothing to prevent the murder.

During an emergency session last night, the Leoncio Prado municipal council decided to declare provincial-wide mourning today, and ordered flags to be flown at half-mast because of the brutal murder of their mayor.

U.S. CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY CRITICIZED

PY181750 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 12 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial: "The Tragedy No One Cares To Admit"]

[Text] While events are taking place at an almost giddying pace in Central America, the erratic, and not the least self-defeating nature of the Reagan administration policy in the region is daily becoming more obvious. Even admitting -- to simplify the matter to its most elemental degree -- that Sandinist Nicaragua is only and no more than a pawn of the Soviets, the destabilizing strategy chosen by the U.S. Administration, and the tactics with which it carried it out are much more dangerous in the medium- and long-term for the security of the United States than the "commanders" of Managua.

At the present time, a lucid enumeration indicates, for instance, that the three great democratic internationals of the world (the Socialist, the Christian Democratic, and the Liberal) publicly and expressly keep aloof from Washington's elaborate arguments; that the entire inter-American system, paralyzed by an amazing passivity, is losing the remains of its credibility among the Latin American public; that the U.S. Senate itself expressly forbids the mining activities reportedly carried out by the CIA; and that such actions place the United States outside international law.

What could be better for the interests of the Soviets and for the loss of prestige of a great democracy? What could be better for the most radicalized elements of Sandinism? What could be better to reduce the credibility and power of international influence of the anti-Sandinist democratic groups, inside and outside Nicaragua?

These questions, which are as clear as daylight, seem to show that the real Soviet pawn is the Reagan administration itself, which does everything possible to reap unpopularity and discredit. Even supposing that the Central American crisis is simplified within the East-West framework (which is absolutely inadequate), the West and democracy have no say in it, as they should have. This is the tragedy the White House refuses to see, although the whole world is crying out loud.

BUS COMPANY WORKERS ON STRIKE; 10,000 Dismissed

PY131902 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Labor and Security Ministry will probably make a decision today on the conflict affecting the Onda Enterprise [nation-wide bus company]. El Espectador has inquired about this in government circles. Meanwhile, the workers are holding an indefinite meeting awaiting a possible solution. Both the workers' and the company's spokesmen stated this afternoon that the situation has not yet changed.

All activities of the Onda Enterprise have stopped in Concepcion. Approximately 10,000 workers have been dismissed throughout the country. The situation has been aggravated because another group of 30,000 workers cannot be promoted due to political discrimination. Members of the National Committee for Dismissed Workers have made various remarks to Radio El Espectador. Accountant (Julio Fiore Delmondo) has stated that they have begun a campaign to report on the situation of the workers of this sector. He said that contacts have been made with political parties to brief them on the situation.

Settlement Reached

PY180201 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The services of the Onda bus company are gradually returning to normal after an agreement was reached between workers and employers. After 5 and 1/2 days of almost total stoppage, an agreement was reached today between the two parties after strenuous negotiations. This agreement was unanimously approved by approximately 1,500 workers who attended a meeting and the management of the Onda enterprise.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES TWO MORE PUBLICATIONS

PY141342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Apr (EFE) -- Tonight the Uruguayan military government headed by General Gregorio Alvarez ordered the closure of two leftist publications: the newspaper CINCO DIAS and the weekly TRIBUNA AMPLIA. According to the decree, copies of which were sent to the editors, both publications are closed. TRIBUNA AMPLIA published its second issue this past Wednesday, and CINCO DIAS had put out 20 issues.

The closing of these publications by the Uruguayan Government comes on the heels of the suspension for 90 issues of the newspaper LA PRENSA of Salto City which is located 520 km northwest of Montevideo.

TUPAMARO 'HOSTAGES' TRANSFERRED TO PRISON

PY170236 Paris AFP in Spanish 2021 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Apr (AFP) -- Political circles in Montevideo today confirmed that six of the nine Tupamaro guerrillas, several international organizations have called them hostages of the Uruguayan Government, have been transferred to the Libertad Penitentiary. For some time now relatives of the subversives, who have been in detention since 1973 in various garrisons in the interior of the country, political leaders, and the opposition press have denounced the subhuman conditions that they have had to suffer during their detention.

Raul Sendic, the founder of the National Liberation Movement-Tupamaros Faction, is among the leaders who have been transferred. The town council of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, recently granted Sendic the title of honorary citizen of the city. The other leaders who have been transferred are: Jose Amilcar Manera Lluveras, Julio Marenales Saenz, Henry Engler Godovchenko, Adolfo Wassen Alaniz, and Jorge Zabalza Waxsman. Political circles believe that the other three hostages -- Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro, Jose Alberto Mujica Cordano, and Mauricio Rosencoff Silbermann -- will also be transferred to the Libertad Penitentiary in the near future.

BRIEFS

SHEEP SHIPMENT TO LIBYA -- Some 23,000 sheep are being shipped from the port of Montevideo to Libya, which has purchased 75,000 sheep at an FOB price of $20 each. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 84 PY]

BILATERAL ECONOMIC MEETING WITH POLAND ENDS

FL140230 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0011 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Poland have agreed today in Mexico City to strengthen their economic and trade relations through new cooperation measures. Hector Hernandez Cervantes, secretary of commerce and industrial development, gave the closing speech at the fourth meeting of the Mexican-Polish Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation which began Wednesday. The closing session was held at the Foreign Relations Secretariat building.

Ambassador Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, under secretary for economic affairs at the Foreign elations ecretariat, participated in the meeting representing Mexico. Mexican representatives from the Secretariats of Finance, Programming, and Budget, Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry, Agriculture and Hydroelectric Resources, Communications and Transport, Tourism, and Fisheries were present at the meeting as well as representatives from financial institutions and parastatal organizations. At the three meetings held by the representatives of Mexico and Poland, both sides expressed the necessity of working intensively toward finding those trade and financial mechanisms which would benefit both countries. Minister of Foreign Trade Tadeusz Nestorowicz headed the Polish delegation, which studied bilateral economic cooperation plans covering trade, industry and technology, agriculture and agroindustry, fisheries, tourism, and financial sectors.

$20 Million Credit Agreement

FL141750 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Polish Minister of Foreign Trade Tadeusz Nestorowicz has announced that Mexico and Poland today signed a $20 million reciprocal credit agreement to promote and finance exports.

He said that the agreement will permit the lines of credit that are being opened to be used to finance the acquisition in Mexico or Poland of raw materials, spare parts, and capital goods. The Polish official pointed out that as a member of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, Poland engages in multilateral negotiations, mainly with countries that have heavy foreign debts. He also said that the interest rates and repayment terms in this case are preferential. In Mexico, the lines of credit can be used through the banking system, in accordance with the credit agreements made between the National Foreign Trade Bank and the National Credit Associations in August, 1983. He said that the talks with Mexican officials dealt with reaffirming the traditional exchange of merchandise between the two nations and that Mexico is exporting coffee, cotton, and fibers for textile manufacturing, and importing textile manufacturing machinery.

Tadeus Nestorowicz explained that the protocol for the $90 million trade agreement was signed last February. The agreement signed today for $20 million in barter is included in the $90 million trade agreement. The barter system was chosen because of the lack of foreign currency in Poland and Mexico.

Such currency is necessary for the liquidation of both countries' foreign debts -- $90 million for Mexico and $28 million for Poland.

CTM LEADER URGES PROFOUND CHANGES IN PRI

PA161736 Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 9 Apr 84 pp 1, 17

[Excerpts] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 4 Apr -- In order for the Mexican revolution to remain in power, it will be necessary to improve the PRI's means of struggle and to renew the entities that participate in the nation's development process, CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] leader Fidel Velazquez warned here today. He emphasized that "in order for the PRI to continue in power, it must make profound changes and improvements, without tricks or falsehoods." The veteran labor leader made this statement during the congress of the Sinaloa Workers Federation opened by Governor Toledo. He added that the Mexican people will not retreat. "We will not permit elements of National Action and the reactionaries in the country to try to establish a regime that would allow collusion with private enterprise with the support of the clergy."

CTM Ready for Anything

"They will never make it, or if they do it will take them 3,000 years. The national proletariat will not permit those reactionaries to assume power," he noted, "because the Mexican labor movement would be prepared to totally paralyze the nation to drive them out." He emphasized that political activity must be strengthened, "and the CTM should grant more importance to political issues than to other activities and should fight to change our present society." He continued, saying: "We will not surrender any of the gains already obtained by the labor movement. We will never renounce our right to strike, and we believe we are on the right track, that is, in the Mexican revolution."

The secretary general of the CTM also said that the labor organization was founded on the principles of the Mexican Revolution and on the universal principles of the proletarian struggle. We workers strive for the power that comes from unity. The CTM is already an experienced organization. We will never turn back, and we will continue advancing always toward the Mexican people's aspirations, he said. He then pointed out that the workers are concerned over the economic crisis affecting the country, and said that the working class is willing to attack and overcome it.

Valazquez on Renovations

FL162020 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0150 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Fidel Velazquez, leader of the Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] said today that the CTM, by right and by choice, has asked for the PRI's full renovation to avoid influences over the majority vote. On closing the CTM's Third National Assembly of Officials of the People's Election, Velazquez denied that CTM members are political robots programmed to say what the party tells them. He added: It is our right and choice to ask for a full renovation of the party, not only in its structure and statutes, but in its attitudes, procedures, and methods.

Velazquez, leader of more than 4 million workers, told PRI Secretary-General Francisco Luna Kan that the CTM has agreed to reaffirm its ties with the party, be political activists, and work with the other sectors, so that all sectors will continue to advance until they achieve the high expectations sought for the well-being of the Mexican people. He added that within the CTM, there is unity of thought, action, structure, fighting spirit, and a firm resolve to renovate. Therefore, at the National Assembly, there were no doubts about arriving at this decision.

Velazquez stated: We want a party which will truly represent mass aspirations, that will establish true democracy as an unvarying norm, and will give PRI members the freedom to make internal criticisms which are both healthful and fortifying for any institution.

He pointed out that by using both the political and labor union fronts, which are in agreement and which complement each other, it will be possible to maintain unity and discipline, and to achieve labor-related successes. He added that it is important for workers to participate in politics in order to keep power in the hands of the revolution.

PEASANTS PROTEST GOVERNMENT AGRARIAN POLICY

PA161955 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Apr 84 pp 10 A, 11 A

[By A. Sepulveda and Ignacio Herrera]

[Excerpts] Some 10,000 peasants from 21 organizations in the country, supported by over 15,000 members of independent organizations, students, and teachers, yesterday marched through the main avenues of the city to protest "the government's anti-agrarian policy." They also held meetings in front of several government buildings and in the Zocalo downtown area, causing one of the biggest traffic jams in recent years from 1000 to 2000. The peasant marchers arrived in the capital early after several days of walking. They entered on the Tlalpan, Ignacio Zaragoza, Vallejo, Misterios, and other highways and assembled at the Revolution Monument and in front of the Secretariat of Agrarian Reform.

The peasants and supporting groups who joined them in their demands for "the distribution of big estates, an end to repression, the granting of credits, and the release of rural prisoners" concluded their activities with a mass rally at the Zocalo downtown area from 1800 to 2010, where they agreed to meet again, "until our problems are settled."

Leaders of rural groups speaking at a meeting in front of the National Palace asked for the distribution of millions of hectares "hoarded by landowners and chieftains," an increase of the guaranteed prices for farm products, and other measures of support for the peasant agricultural sector. Members of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, university federations, and other labor groups also attended the Zocalo area rally.

BRIEFS

HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR DEPARTS -- Mexico City, 14 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Hungarian Ambassador to Mexico Karoly Szabo has left, returning to his country. Before Szabo's departure, he said that trade relations between Mexico and Hungary reached almost $24 million and that there is the possibility of increasing trade relations between the two countries. [Summary] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1950 GMT 14 Apr 84 FL]

ILLUECA SAYS FACTORS PREVENT C.A. SUMMIT

PA182248 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Apr 84 pp 38, 48

[Report by Euclides M. Corro R.]

[Text] According to Panamanian President Jorge Illueca, there are factors that prevent holding a summit meeting to solve the Central American problem with the participation of Cuba, the United States, and the United Nations. Interviewed by CRITICA yesterday afternoon, Illueca said that such a "summit" requires extensive preparations "and I have the impression that some of those countries would not be prepared to attend a meeting of such magnitude in such a short time."

As is known, during his recent tour of several countries of the area UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed interest in holding a summit meeting with the participation of the United Nations, the Central American governments, the Contadora Group foreign ministers, and representatives of Cuba and the United States. Illueca said that "this is feasible within the international sphere, and the UN secretary general has very clear functions and can hold such a meeting."

Regarding the Contadora Group peace efforts, Illueca said that this is an action of good offices with the cooperation of the Central American states "which, through their peoples and governments, definitely have the last word." He added that "undoubtedly we all want peace and we are also aware that there is great upheaval in Central America and that there is a military escalation that is of concern and that forces Contadora to intensify its efforts."

Regarding the chances for a solution without taking into account all the parties in conflict, President Illueca said he favors including all the involved parties, but added that "the participants in this case are the governments, while the Contadora Group countries are acting as a bridge of understanding for the Central American countries."

"Through these talks," he said, "with the government officials we can find the basis for negotiations that can lead to solutions in which the forces that are moving internally in each of those countries can be taken into account." He concluded by stating that "this is of course something that falls within the sovereign power of these governments, since solutions cannot be sought or imposed from the outside."

PAN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS POLITICAL PARTY

PA161901 Panama City YA in Spanish 14 Apr 84 pp 2, 4

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal has recognized the National Action Party (PAN), led by retired Colonel Camilo Saavedra, as a political party in Resolution No 185 dated 10 April 1984, signed by Cesar A. Quintero, Rolando Murgas Torraza, and Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, president, vice president, and member, respectively.

PAN With Arnulfo

PAN has identified itself as a supporter of Arnulfo Arias' candidacy. The party, made up of young people and workers, was founded by Col Saavedra with hard work and sacrifice.

Recognition

The Electoral Tribunal's resolution reads as follows:

"1. Officially recognize PAN as a political party, and order its inclusion in the Book of Records of Political Parties.

"2. Recognize retired Col Camilo Saavedra as the party's president and legal representative.

"3. Approve the party's statutes as they were approved during the National Constitutional Convention held in Panama City on 11 March 1984."

Proliferation

Although recognition of this party has increased the number of registered parties, it will not have any candidates for the elections, as it was recognized after the registration deadline. As for its line, PAN supports the democratic opposition that backs Arnulfo Arias' candidacy.

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP REQUESTS ELECTION OBSERVERS

PA190300 Panama City YA in Spanish 18 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Letter to the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights from the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, signed by Otilia Arosemena de Tejeira, Gloria de Alfaro, Marta G. de la Guardia, Rogelio Alfaro, Osvaldo Velasquez, M.D., Jose Manuel Faundes, Ricardo Bermudez, and Edgardo Molino Mola dated 17 April in Panama City]

[Text] We hereby request that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights exert the greatest possible pressure on the Panamanian Government, signatory of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, to respect the human rights of Panamanian citizens, especially political rights.

We believe that the presence of Inter-American Commission on Human Rights observers is necessary here in Panama a few days before, during, and after the 6 May elections in view of the following charges:

1. Forcing the government workers to attend political meetings of the government candidate.

2. Firing government workers because they are members of opposition parties or because they have not attended the political activities of the officialist candidates.

3. Active or intimidating participation of the armed forces in political activities.

4. The use of state funds and other resources to help the official candidates.

5. Physical attacks on members of the opposition by military and paramilitary groups.

6. Exclusive use of the state communications media to help the candidates of the government.

7. Use of intimidation and state funds to encourage the private communications media (press, radio, and television) to abstain from publicizing propaganda for the candidates of the opposition.

8. Canceling scholarships for students who are active in the opposition.

9. Affecting transportation during a gathering for a political event of the opposition.

10. Indifference and complicity on the part of the authorities in face of these human rights violations.

For its democratization and to avoid violence, the country needs authentic democratic elections and respect for the will of the people.

MANFREDO ON HOUSING PROBLEMS OF U.S. CITIZENS

PA130501 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, has said that the commission will grant an extension to U.S. Armed Forces employees that have housing problems in the canal area:

[Begin Manfredo recording] Not all the school and hospital employees who were eligible for housing as U.S. Government employees in the canal zone are now eligible for housing according to the U.S. Armed Forces regulations. There are a certain number of U.S. Armed Forces employees who work in hospitals and schools, who are not eligible for housing. The U.S. Armed Forces, therefore, will not resolve their problems. This includes a certain number of Panamanians, mainly doctors, who live in those houses and who, according to the U.S. Armed Forces, are not longer eligible for housing benefits.

There are also a certain number of U.S. citizens who because they do not have a transportation agreement [acuerdo de transportacion] or are on a grade level above 7 do not qualify according to U.S. Armed Forces regulations. These persons' housing problems will not be resolved by the U.S. Armed Forces.

Hence Panama, mainly for humanitarian reasons, will again lease 408 housing units to the U.S. Armed Forces to resolve these persons' housing problems since there was no place to relocate them. I have also called upon the Panamanian Government to make an effort to resolve the case of these persons who do not qualify and are not eligible under U.S. Armed Forces housing regulations. This applies both to Panamanians and U.S. citizens.

We are currently negotiating with the Housing Ministry and the Panamanian Government so they will allow us to continue giving housing facilities for at least 1 year to these persons because they have nowhere to go until they find a solution to their housing problem with the Panamanian economy. We must bear in mind that the time left between now and 1 October will be a period of anguish for these persons because they are trying to find an acceptable residence in which to be relocated. [end recording]

BELIZE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES 1984-85 BUDGET

FL181344 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] In Belize, the National Assembly has approved a new budget. After 2 weeks of heated debate and referrals to several house committees, the National Assembly in Belize finally approved a 1984-85 budget as presented by the ruling government of Prime Minister George Price and the People's United Party. The new budget represents a 5.8 percent cutback from last year's budget that is in keeping with the government's plan to further reduce expenditure and efforts to restore discipline to the country's crippled economy.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO RECENT NICARAGUAN CHARGES

PA180411 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Guitierrez has asserted that the armed attacks carried out against San Juan del Norte by Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, forces on 10 April did not originate in Costa Rica. Gutierrez today sent a telegram to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco answering the charge included in a note dated 10 April.

According to an investigation carried out by the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry, strong clashes have occurred since 10 April in San Juan del Norte in Nicaragua. Activists were not seen entering or leaving Costa Rica. No actions occurred that violated the neutrality proclaimed by the Costa Rican Government, the answer added.

The Security Ministry concluded that ARDE controls a long stretch of the San Juan River on the Nicaraguan side. Control posts are spread over 68 km. This control is maintained from the mouth of the Bartola River in the west to the Nicaragua delta. It is thought that the reported hostilities might well have originated [words indistinct] because this area is very near the disputed zone of San Juan del Norte. No activities were detected from Costa Rica that might be related to the incidents mentioned in the charge, the note sent to the Nicaraguan Government added.

Further on Response

PA182344 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2242 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpts] San Jose, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- In a note sent by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez to his Nicaraguan counterpart, Luis Alberto Monge's cabinet has rejected the charges that ARDE's men, led by Eden Pastora, are using Costa Rican territory for their activities.

An official Nicaraguan Defense Ministry report released in Managua today indicated that "from different border points in Costa Rican territory, Pastora's men are sporadically shooting and using mortars to harass our territory in the area of San Juan del Norte."

In a note addressed to his colleague, Victor Hugo Tinoco [acting Nicaraguan foreign minister], Gutierrez said that Costa Rica "exercises full control over the activities taking place in its territory" and therefore "it does not allow military actions to be carried out from here against the illustrious Nicaraguan Government."

The foreign minister referred the acting Nicaraguan foreign minister to what was reported in the joint commission where the Costa Rican delegation has reported "in a very detailed manner these circumstances." Gutierrez reminded the acting Nicaraguan foreign minister that in the last meeting of the commission in February: "The Costa Rican Government made known to the Nicaraguan delegation these confirmed facts as well as the existence of a training school in Nicaraguan territory in front of the mouth of the Sarapiqui River." With that base, Gutierrez insisted that from Nicaragua "and supplied through the San Juan River, the insurgents have been fighting until they reached San Juan del Norte with the support of helicopters" that operate from their own country.

Insisting that the events reported by Managua have been distorted, the minister stated that the ARDE maintains offices in San Jose "just as the FSLN maintained them in the past." He also rejected "the exhortation" for "immediate measures to be adopted on the common border" in view that the Costa Rican Government maintains permanent control over all its territory as support and guarantee of its policy of neutrality.

BORDER SECURITY INCREASED DURING HOLY WEEK

PA182111 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The Ministries of Public Security and Government, following the recommendations of the Security Council, will take due precautions to prevent violations of Costa Rica's sovereignty during Holy Week, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has reported. The guard along the Nicaraguan border has been increased to prevent the territory of Costa Rica from being used in the civil war in Nicaragua, he said, adding that there will be a strict control at the border to prevent the entry of armed groups from Nicaragua. The foreign minister added that the members of the Security Council will maintain close contact.

EDITORIAL: USSR-CUBA DISPUTE BEHIND PVP CHANGES

PA190019 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 10

[Editorial: "The PVP and the Havana-Moscow Struggle"]

[Text] After suffering many misfortunes, plagued by painful and deep schisms, the team of Humberto Vargas Carbonell and Arnoldo Ferreto seems to have won the battle that they have been waging against the Mora Valverde brothers and the group of long-standing communists in the Popular Vanguard Party (PVP). The dispute between them goes beyond being a struggle over the personal ambition of maintaining their dominion over a political group that has no electoral future in Costa Rica, a party in which, through evolution, many social achievements have been made that have surpassed those made by the comrades in countries dominated by communism.

Cuba has become too heavy a bundle for the USSR to carry, and it has been forced to artificially sustain the Caribbean island's economy for the sake of having a friend in the American Continent and, basically, for keeping that dangerous thorn stuck in the U.S. side, only 90 miles from Miami. Moscow is very interested in keeping the United States in a state of anxiety. Therefore, it causes that country problems in as many places as possible, and for this it can count on the action of the communist parties and the silly collaboration of the usable fools. Fidel Castro, meanwhile, has found a way to live at the expense of Soviet effort, and this made him lose his aggressiveness of some years ago, when he tried by every means available to export his revolution to the rest of the continent.

This situation in which Moscow pressures Cuba so that in exchange for its money Cuba will create problems for the United States, in the continental United States, is a matter from which Havana has tried to detach itself as much as possible, and this has created a silent confrontation between the USSR and Cuba. Moscow wants to light the match of the Central American powder keg, starting with Nicaragua, later to jump to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica, and in this effort it cares little about the risks that it will make Cuba face. But Cuba has been careful, and although it maintains tens of thousands of Cubans in Nicaragua, and it attempted to take over Grenada, it has not expanded as much as Moscow would like in El Salvador and Guatemala. Fidel prefers that Managua run the risks and not he as the Soviet Union would like, because it has seen how the counterrevolution has made Nicaraguan aid to the Salvadoran guerrillas difficult. Moscow has seen how the war in El Salvador has been obstructed, and how the guerrillas have no way of imposing themselves on the government, which has held elections with massive turnouts at the polls -- all of which has weakened the guerrilla position. In Honduras, the democratic forces are strong; in Guatemala, the Army does not allow the guerrillas to raise their heads; and in Costa Rica, they have not managed to create the necessary atmosphere to promote subversion. All of this has made Moscow feel the urgency of promoting democratic activity in Central America, and this is why communist parties willing to compromise with Havana are viewed as undesirable. Moscow wants more aggressiveness in the Central American countries, and this policy has infleunced the PVP.

The Mora brothers are Fidel Castro's friends; it is well known that Vargas Carbonell is the man at the Soviet Embassy. Deep down, it is the silent confrontation between Moscow and Havana that is determining the changes in the PVP. The final result of this confrontation in the internal struggle that is taking place in the heart of Costa Rican communism does not seem to be the best for the country.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA COMMENTS ON CCE REQUEST TO VETO DECREE

PA181619 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Apr 84 pp 3, 47

[Excerpts] "I have not been officially advised of the proposal made by the Central Electoral Council [CCE], which reportedly asks that I veto the legislative decree that eliminates electoral lists for the 6 May runoff elections," President Alvaro Magana said in a telephone conversation with EL DIARIO DE HOY. The president added that he will veto the decree if it is proven unconstitutional.

President Magana has not yet officially received the proposal of the CCE members, who have even threatened to resign from their posts unless the decree in question is vetoed or annulled because, according to the CCE statement, "it does not guarantee the honesty of the electoral process to select the president and vice president of the Repbulic on 6 May." The president told a newsman that he actually learned about the CCE position through a report in EL DIARIO DE HOY, and that he believes the CCE document could reach this office by 24 April, the first working day for government employees after the Easter vacation.

EL DIARIO DE HOY mentioned to the president a report published 2 days ago by THE WASHINGTON POST, citing Magana as having said that he will veto the decree in question. On this matter, the president said that he had indeed made that statement to the U.S. paper, but he explained that "I will veto the decree if it is proved unconstitutional." However, he added that this decision would have to be made after he has received the proposal and has studied the CCE document with his advisers.

ARMY: REBELS HARASS TOWNS IN MORAZAN DEPARTMENT

PA190243 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1655 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Communique released by the Armed Forces Press Committee, dated in San Salvador, 18 April]

[Text] Terrorist Harassment in Towns of Morazan Department

The towns of Jocoro, El Divisadero, and Osicala in the eastern Morazan Department were subjected to terrorist harassment early this morning. The events in Jocoro and El Divisadero began at 0300, and the Armed Forces controlled the situation a few hours later. Reports from these places reveal that four soldiers were wounded and two killed. In Osicala, the rebels began their harassment at 0530. The situation was normalized a short time later after Armed Forces intervention. The rebels fled the three towns and there is no information on their casualties. The Armed Forces immediately organized an operation to seek and persecute the rebels.

UNGO ON REBEL VICTORIES, U.S. INTERVENTION

PA182204 Paris AFP in Spanish 2100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Paris, 18 Apr (AFP) -- Guillermo Ungo, president of the FDR (political branch of the guerrilla organizations) in El Salvador, today asserted in Paris that the creation of a subregional government by the Salvadoran guerrillas in the area of Chalatenango (southwestern part of the country), represents a "normal extension of the local administration in the guerrilla-controlled zones."

The creation of the government was announced today by the Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL, members of the FMLN. In a brief statement to AFP, Ungo -- who arrived in Paris last Monday for a 1-week visit -- said that this is the establishment of a people's administration at subregional level, at the initiative of the rebels who control the area, and not the establishment of a provisional government, which is not being considered for the time being.

Ungo, who participated in a demonstration of solidarity with the Salvadoran guerrillas, asserted that El Salvador "is experiencing decisive battles, although not necessarily the final ones, which will achieve a military and political victory for the people." "We feel optimistic even though we are experiencing critical and difficult periods. The Salvadoran dictatorship's military, political, and economic collapse is growing. U.S. imperialism must constantly reorganize its plans, strategy, and tactics, and its political-military plans are permanently suffering defeats and failures," he added.

"The guerrilla groups' military advance and the regime's political deterioration are increasingly telling us that the time for the Reagan administration's decision regarding a negotiation or an invasion is close," he asserted. "The Salvadoran Army has no chance of defeating the FMLN, even with the aid of its neighbors, nor even of changing the course of the war. Therefore, the United States will have to do on its own what it cannot do through others, if it wants to maintain its strategy for a military solution," he said.

Ungo also spoke of the importance of receiving international solidarity "to forestall the possibility of a large-scale U.S. intervention." Ungo has scheduled a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson tomorrow, Thursday.

VENCEREMOS: POPULAR SUPPORT ASSURES FMLN VICTORY

PA181653 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Attention, attention. Here are the reasons that the dictatorship's Army is losing the war. In only 24 days, the Army has lost more than 300 men. In less than 1 month, the dictatorship has lost the equivalent of a Cazadores Battalion. The facts that make the dictatorship's defeat obvious are: the annihilation at El Cumbo Hill, San Vicente Department on 24 March; the annihilation in Tejutepeque on 25 March; the encirclement of the Paratroopers Battalion on 2 April; the annihilation on the new road in Suchitoto on 6 April; the attack on San Sebastian on 8 April; the ambush in San Vicente on 16 April.

As a result of these actions the enemy suffered 154 Army soldiers dead, including 12 officers and noncommissioned officers. The puppet army had at least 104 wounded and had some 50 men taken prisoner of war. Adding the Army desertions -- which are many, according to prisoners of war -- the dictatorship's army has lost approximately 400 men. This is much more than one of the Cazadores Battalions formed by the U.S. advisers.

This is how the Army is losing the war to the advance and power of the FMLN. The war being waged by the people's army, the FMLN, against the dictatorship's forces is being won by the FMLN because of better deployment and maneuvering ability, because of its ability to wear out the dictatorship's army, because of its growing territorial control and, especially, because of the people's support for the revolutionary army. This support allows the FMLN to form new columns and to stay wherever it goes.

This ability and this support by the people make the tactics of the Gringo advisers inefficient. This ability and this popular support make the millions of dollars worth of weapons that Reagan sends to the dictatorship useless. This is why the FMLN, at the side of the Salvadoran people and workers, is winning the revolutionary war.

FAL PROMOTES ILIANA TO CAPTAIN POSTHUMOUSLY

PA172354 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of El Salvador and the General Command of the Armed Forces of Liberation [FAL] in recognition of Companera Iliana's unquestionable merits -- she died in combat in San Sebastian on 8 or 9 April -- and reflecting the feeling of her fellow militants and combatants, hereby resolve and order:

1. All FAL units and structures are to carry out parades and other events to highlight the qualities of Maria Oralia Carranza Rivas, Iliana, as a communist and frontline fighter. Activities are to be carried out during the next 8 days.

2. Companera Iliana is granted, posthumously, the rank of captain.

3. The 1st Company of the Rafael Aguinada Carranza battalion is to be named Captain Iliana.

4. These provisions are to be made public.

Companera Maria Oralia Carranza Rivas, Capt Iliana, we are here. Companeros who fell in combat will be with us until we win. For these dead, our dead, we swear to win. United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we will win. Proletarians of all countries, unite.

[Signed] El Salvador, 14 April 1984

Shafik Jorge Handal, secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador and FAL general commander

GUATEMALA

ARMY NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN 'GRENADIER I'

PA182304 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1732 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Colonel Edgar Djalma Dominguez, official spokesman of the Guatemalan Army, said here today that the Guatemalan Army has decided not to participate in the "Grenadier I" military maneuvers which are being carried out in Honduras with U.S. troops. The "Grenadier I" military maneuvers will start their operational activities next May, and the U.S., Honduran, and Salvadoran troops have announced their participation.

"Our Army is professional enough and does not need this type of exercise, which will not increase our counterinsurgency experience, anyway," Col Djalma said. The official spokesman of the Guatemalan Army explained: "Honduras and El Salvador receive the bulk of U.S. economic and military aid. We have been capable of controlling our subversion without external aid and this continues to be our main priority. The subversive activity in our country has increased during the past weeks. Thus, it is necessary for us to use all our forces in this counterinsurgency struggle. We do not consider it appropriate to engage military members in another objective," he added.

Col Djalma said that the decision not to participate in "Grenadier I" was made by the head of state, General Oscar Mejia Victores, after receiving a report from the National Defense general staff.

POLITICAL LEADERS INTERVIEWED ON CONSTITUTION

PA180234 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Guatemala is 2 and 1/2 months away from the constituent assembly elections, an event destined to mark the starting point of the process of the country's return to institutionality. In the nation's current political circumstances, diverse groups involved in this process are discussing the topic, but the majority do so with evident superficiality, without subjecting the essence of what this election will mean to Guatemala's future to a critical analysis. With the objective of understanding the fundamental thoughts of the persons who have launched themselves into the political contest of the 1 July elections, who as candidates or leaders of organizations will attempt to achieve political seats, Here's the World program has interviewed representatives from the different factions, striving to elicit a concrete and clear statement on the constitutional model that, according to their organizations, Guatemala needs. Our first interviewee, Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, secretary general of the National Renewal Party, said the following:

[Begin Maldonando recording] We feel that the constitution should be clear, its terminology simple, and its words perfectly defined.

Furthermore, of course, it should be divided into two parts: a dogmatic section that will state definitively the inhabitants' rights, and a second part that will explain how the state is to function, through the branches established to carry out political situations. I think these are the priorities that the constitution should contain. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo of the Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party supported three fundamental priorities in the next constitution.

[Begin Cerezo Arevalo recording] First, individual guarantees of the Guatemalans' basic, fundamental rights and second, a balance of powers should be established, so that the executive branch cannot abuse its powers at the expense of the other two state branches, the legislative branch and the Supreme Court. The branches should be divided. In the third place, there must be a guarantee that the regime is going to be constitutional and democratic, guaranteeing that sovereignty originates with the people, that the people will have the fundamental right to elect and change it leaders. Therefore, the establishment of a legal regime, the establishment of the individual and fundamental rights of persons, and the separation of powers to maintain the exercise of democracy in the entire country are required. [end recording]

The constitution should be based on democracy and should demand respect for the law, Hector Humberto Rivas Garcia, the Democratic Institutional Party leader, said.

[Begin Rivas Garcia recording] The constitution has to be the [words indistinct] or a true support of respect for law in Guatemala. A constitution has to be flexible; it has to have a democratic basis, a democratic cut; and it should shape the fundamental bases of Guatemalans' lives. We are working in this direction; we are trying to create a fully democratic constitution that will extend to all of the social classes in the country in order to achieve a balance of all interests in search of the lasting peace we all desire. [end recording]

The constitution should give priority to the economic system and property rights, another political leader, Cesar Augusto Toledo Penate of the FUR [United Revolutionary Front], said.

[Begin Toledo Penate recording] I prefer a very special regulation of the economic system and the property system. It is necessary to guarantee the right to private property as a social function and to protect other types of property, community property and the different types of properties in the different [word indistinct] of the country. [end recording]

Carlos Molina Mentos, leader of the Nationalist Authentic Central, in referring to the next constituent assembly, said that man should be free, with a right to live and work.

[Begin Molina recording] This party basically believes in the existence of God and in a man created by that God. Man is unique and singular and therefore cannot be grouped, homogenized, or socialized. Man should be free to act as an individual, and he should be guaranteed a family, a job, and free possession of properties. Therefore, these are the principal guarantees that a constitution should give a person, or all individuals. In other words, our main objective is man as being created by God, a free man with a right to life, family, liberty, free religious beliefs, freedom to express his thoughts, and freedom to move about. We want to guarantee the man and liberty. [end recording]

(Edmundo Guerrero), of the PR [Revolutionary Party], said that it is necessary to stress within a legal framework those principles that serve as the basis for freedom and the Guatemalan people's right to have this contribution to an institutional future set forth in the next constitution. [sentence as heard]

[Begin (Guerrero) recording] It would take a long time to list our priorities. We are mainly concerned with human rights, individual (?beliefs) and freedoms, the interdependence of the branches of power, and the autonomy (?copied from) other constitutions -- especially that of 1945 -- in connection with the university, the municipalities, and the autonomous institutions. In short, it would be tedious to list them. However, we don't believe this is a problem concerned with priorities, but with stressing within a legal framework those rules that can truly guarantee a democratic game. [end recording]

(Rudy Fuentes Sandoval), of the MLN [National Liberation Movement], said that among other things, the future constitution must be both realistic and positive. Above all, human rights must be respected.

[Begin (Fuentes Sandoval) recording] This should be a positive and realistic magna charta, where human rights are enforced and respected as the essential basis for searching for social peace in the country. Naturally, the new constitution should include all the provisions for social advancement. If we really want to be sincere, I repeat, we must draft a positive and realistic constitution where respect for human rights essentially prevails. [end recording]

The constitution should include the following priorities: security, justice, and the Guatemalan people's freedom, said FUN [National Unity Front] leader Gabriel Giron Ortiz.

[Begin Giron Ortiz recording] Those things should always be included in the constitutional postulates. Security, justice, and freedom should be achieved and guaranteed for all citizens. The constitution should be very strict with regard to human rights. The constitution should also establish what system of government should prevail in the country. The economic system should also be taken into consideration [words indistinct] due to the problems affecting [words indistinct] [end recording]

Danilo Barillas of the Democratic Civic Front advocates a democratic system in the new constitution, and he establishes its priorities.

[Begin Barillas recording] The constitution should create a new system in the country, a truly democratic system. Our ideological platform calls for several changes in the constitution. Here in Guatemala citizens find a difference between the traditional sectors, especially those in the extreme right, and the more modern sectors that are not on the right. The extreme right insists that the previous constitutions are good, and that it would only take 2 or 3 months of work by a national constituent assembly to reedit these constitutions and to introduce certain changes in style. We disagree. We think that the new constitution should create new constitutional paths; it should create a democratic system. The systems under which a country develops depend on the constitution, and we believe that the new constitution should help establish democracy in Guatemala. [end recording]

Lionel Sisniega Otero, leader of the Anti-Communist Unification Party, advocates a constitution based on principles in view of certain bad antecedents in previous regimes.

[Begin Sisniega Otero recording] We believe that a constitution based on principles must be drafted, not a statutory-type constitution as we have at present. We have a constitution, and this constitution has been repeatedly modified in form, not content.

It is high time we introduced a modification in content, and I think that the best means to achieve this is to first draft a constitution based on principles and then draft constitutional and regular laws developing those principles so that, if the system needs to be modified, we won't have to elect another national constituent assembly. [end recording]

(Jose Miguel Barrios) of the Guatemalan Democratic Coordinating Board stressed that the Constituent Assembly should enjoy autonomy in carrying out its duties.

[Begin (Barrios) recording] According to our ideology, the national constitution should be eminently democratic. By this we mean that this should be a constitution for the Guatemalan people, not for a given minority. We believe that in the past, one of the most serious defects has been the fact that the constitutions have been [word indistinct] and drafted for certain Guatemalan minorities. [end recording]

Ruben Chavez Rios, secretary general of the Emerging Movement for Harmony, today said that the future constituent assembly will be empowered to elect a provisional president.

[Begin Chavez Rios recording] A constituent assembly represents the people. The one that is about to be elected among us would represent the entire Guatemalan people Therefore, [words indistinct], without any specific or personal interest -- despite what anyone listening to us now might think -- the Constituent Assembly does have the capacity to elect a president, not among specific candidates but any Guatemalan citizen. [end recording]

Francisco Reyes Ixcamey, leader of the People's Democratic Force, said that the main points of the next constitution should generally include aspects dealing with education, justice, and human rights.

[Begin Reyes Ixcamey recording] The future constitution should include various important points, clearly stressing the human rights aspect. Like anywhere else in the world, here in Guatemala these rights have been trampled so [words indistinct]. With regard to imparting justice, [words indistinct] by the Guatemalan tribunals. We have realized that (?laws and fundamental norms of) the previous Constitution (?have been violated), so this chapter must be drafted in a special way to keep these constitutional norms from being violated.

We believe that education is also important. [Words indistinct] about how it must be regulated so it can reach villages and municipalities in order to eliminate illiteracy.

We also believe more importance should be accorded to the University of San Carlos, that is, we should give it a larger percentage so that it can have a large-scale impact on the Guatemalan community.

We should also focus on sports. [end recording]

(Juan de Dios Aguilar), former presidential candidate of the [acronym indistinct], said that in his view the new constitution should be updated and modern so that it can fulfill its functions.

[Begin (Aguilar) recording] All laws must undoubtedly be changed and updated. The new constitution should take into consideration the new paths that the world has taken. And here in our country, it should stress those laws that benefit the people, the poorer sectors, and women. [end recording]

HONDURAS

HELICOPTER WITH U.S. SENATORS DRAWS 'HEAVY' FIRE

PA190124 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Two U.S. senators and their entourage are safe in this capital city following this afternoon's attack with heavy weapons on the helicopter they were traveling in. At the time of the attack the Democratic Senators Lawton Chiles and J. Bennett Johnston, accompanied by Diana Negroponte, the wife of the U.S. ambassador to Honduras, and another diplomatic employee were traveling to a Salvadoran refugee camp in eastern Honduras. The senators and their entourage are presently in the military area at the Tegucigalpa airport and are accompanied by Walter Lopez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, Ambassador John Dimitri Negroponte, and Honduran Government officials.

According to unofficial reports, the helicopter the senators were traveling in and a "Black Hawk" type aircraft serving as an escort were fired on with heavy machine guns. No one was wounded, and it is still not known whether the helicopters were hit during the hostile fire believed to have come from Salvadoran subversives. The helicopters were fired on in the area of Las Flores near Colomoncagua, where the most forward Salvadoran refugee camp is located. This area is also very close to the border with El Salvador, Lempira Department on the Honduran side and Morazan Department on the Salvadoran side, where the guerrilla movement has its strongest bastion.

According to comments made to the press this morning at the Presidential Palace before beginning their eventful trip to the eastern sector, the two sentators, who arrived in Honduras on Monday, said that they had come to Honduras "to learn of Central America's situation of conflict where it is being experienced."

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON U.S. REJECTION OF ASTORGA

PA190240 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 18 April]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reports the following:

On Wednesday, 18 April 1984, the U.S. Embassy in Managua verbally notified this ministry of the U.S. Government's decision not to grant approval to Dr Nora Astorga Gadea. On appointing Dr Astorga Gadea as ambassador plenipotentiary before the U.S. Government, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry did so specifically bearing in mind her professional capacity and the vast experience she obtained as deputy foreign minister. With this appointment, the Nicaraguan Government once again reiterated the seriousness and interest assigned to the bilateral relations with that country as well as the willingness and desire to begin a process of serious and constructive dialogue between our two governments.

By refusing to grant the approval requested by the Nicaraguan Government, the U.S. Government has once again shown its lack of willingness to establish a direct and continuous dialogue between our two governments.

With this attitude, it also reaffirms the unalterable line of its confrontational and aggressive policy that has been expressed in its attempts to institutionalize state terrorism against the Nicaraguan people.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry wishes to state that despite the U.S. Government's attitude, Nicaragua, in addition to having already granted the corresponding approval to Mr Harry H. Bergold as new U.S. representative, will also receive the credentials that accredit Mr Bergold as ambassador before the Nicaraguan Government, once these are presented.

Press and Dissemination Office
After 50 years, Sandino lives

COSTA RICAN 'COMPLICITY' WITH REBELS VIEWED

PA181958 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 84

["Beyond the News Reports" feature: "Costa Rica Is Playing With Fire," by Carlos Chamorro Coronel]

[Text] The Costa Rican Government is playing with fire by allowing attacks on Nicaragua from its territory to go unpunished. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique was clear on this point. It stated: The overt use of Costa Rican territory has been increasing to the extent that several hospitals and first aid stations in Costa Rica, in towns like Ciudad Quesada and Barra del Colorado, are now practically working for the aggressor mercenary forces. In the same manner, the use of many planes and helicopters has been evident in support of the attackers of the border post. These aircraft arrive from Costa Rican airports and landing strips, and so on and so forth.

Now, what does this mean? It simply means -- using less diplomatic language, although our government's note is sufficiently strong and firm -- that our sister and nieghbor Costa Rica is also waging war on us, just like Honduras. This is so, because permitting -- and not only that, but also giving logistical support to -- the CIA mercenary Somozists to operate with impunity from Costa Rica is exactly the same as if they declared war on us. Where then is the boasted neutrality they proclaimed to the world? The most (?serious) problem for Costa Rica would be to lose control of the government and fall into hands of the CIA, IMF, and Pastora's mercenaries, who -- to be frank -- already operate as a real army inside of Costa Rica. In other words, Costa Rica's sovereignty is in great danger. In addition, with this attitude -- which shows negligence, if not complicity -- Costa Rica is hampering the Contadora Group's efforts and sides with the attackers of Nicaragua's legitimate government and its revolutionary process.

In conclusion, here is a message for our Costa Rican brothers, with whom we have so many ties of friendship, culture, and history. During the past century, when Nicaraguan sovereignty was threatened by the filibuster William Walker, our Costa Rican brothers led by their president and general, Juan Rafael Mora, were the first to respond to the call by the Nicaraguan patriots. They were also the first to confront and defeat the enemy in Santa Rosa and then in Rivas. It would be very said if the people of Juan Santamaria -- who gave his life heroically for Central America's liberty and independence -- sided today with the new filibusters and CIA mercenaries.

We know that Costa Ricans are preaceful but courageous people. We must not forget that they once defeated Somoza's National Guard. [as heard]

Therefore, we hope and expect that at this time when -- as in 1856 -- the destiny of the whole continent is at stake in the isthmus, Costa Rica will side with the Central American and Latin American cause, and against the common enemy of our peoples: U.S. imperialism.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE

Daniel Ortega Cited

PA181403 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose -- Counterrevolutionary leader Eden Pastora and his mercenaries have fled in disarray from the area of San Juan del Norte due to the heavy fire they have been subjected to by the Sandinist People's Army, EPS. A spokesman for the so-called ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] organization said that their commander had been expelled from the region and that their men had withdrawn to sectors in Costa Rica known as Barra Colorado and Boca de San Carlos.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega in referring to the attack on San Juan del Norte said it was only a publicity stunt by U.S. imperialism to divert attention from the serious defeats it has suffered so far.

The mercenaries and former Somozist guards have been repelled by EPS units and forced to withdraw to Costa Rica after they failed to establish a beachhead in San Juan del Norte.

On the same subject, reports from Madrid note that Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, was interviewed by the Spanish station Radio Cadena Catolica in Madrid. Daniel Ortega described the attacks on San Juan del Norte as a U.S. action against Nicaragua, in collaboration with Eden Pastora, a mercenary and filibuster of U.S. imperialism. He also denied the alleged occupation of San Juan del Norte by the Somozist counterrevolutionary groups, adding that the alleged occupation is only a campaign orchestrated by U.S. imperialism, and stressing that the mercenaries have been dislodged from Nicaraguan areas bordering on Costa Rica.

Sergio Ramirez on Fighting

PA181625 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1250 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Madrid, 18 Apr (EFE) -- Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has played down the importance of the loss of San Juan del Norte, but said: "We will recover it soon." In an interview with Spanish newsman Manuel Leguineche, the Sandinist leader said that the current offensive being staged by Eden Pastora and other counterrevolutionaries, who, to quote Ramirez, "are carrying out Reagan and CIA plans," is not only a military operation, but also a diplomatic one in reaction to "our victories in international organizations."

Sergio Ramirez said categorically in his statement, which was published today by several Spanish newspapers, including LA VANGUARDIA of Barcelona and DIARIO 16 of Madrid, that "we are not going to get nervous over something that does not exist." He was referring to the publicity given to ARDE's [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] victory in the San Juan River area.

The Nicaraguan leader said: "It is not a strategic, political, economic, or military center; it is a deserted and abandoned place. No one lives there; however, even if it is only dunes or rocks, we cannot tolerate the loss of part of our national sovereignty." Commenting on the publicity obtained lately by Eden Pastora's men as a result of their operations, Ramirez said that there has been "much ado about nothing. There is more propaganda than real military gains. They make up everything. They claim to have occupied (?Guasaule) or Jalapa, or say that the occupation of San Juan del Norte is a great achievement." He added: "Right now, we are repelling a full-scale CIA attack in different parts of the country."

Ramirez said that the Sandinist junta is quite well informed about what is going on in Costa Rica and "we know about the landing strips on the estates of Costa Rican landholders who follow CIA orders to support Pastora. We also know the registration numbers of their planes, and we know about their supply depots."

He said that the mining of Nicaraguan ports has caused his country over $14 million in losses, because "our cotton, coffee, and sugar exports have decreased and also because we are not receiving the raw materials that we need." He reiterated his government's decision to continue the electoral process and to hold elections on 4 November.

Pastora Terms Situation Stable

PA181637 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1553 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Eden Pstora -- "Commander Cero" -- today denied reports that he had to abandon the port of San Juan del Norte on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast, which forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) occupied last week. At 0830 local time (1430 GMT) Pastora called ARDE's communications center in this capital from that port and reported that the situation "is stable," denying last night's announcement by the Managua government that the port had been recovered.

ARDE spokesmen told ACAN-EFE that Pastora had given them a general report on last night's and this morning's incidents and assured them that the situation "continues to be" the same as yesterday. Pastora said that his forces have resisted "heavy bombing" from 12 gunboats firing from the sea, some 2 km from the coast, as well as from push-and-pull and MIG-8 [as received] government planes.

According to reports from ARDE's information center, so far the government troops have been unable to land on the 50-km beachhead controlled by Pastora's columns. The sources also denied reports that the Sandinist Navy had sunk two boats with ARDE troops fleeing to Costa Rica, saying that "no one here flees."

ARDE Admits Retreat

PA181753 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1739 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) troops, led by Eden Pastora, started to retreat from San Juan del Norte this morning. ARDE spokesmen told ACAN-EFE that the groups's military command this morning ordered the troops to retreat in view of attacks by the Sandinist government forces. San Juan del Norte, a port on Nicaragua's southern Atlantic coast next to the Costa Rican border, was taken by ARDE troops last weekend.

Pastora: ARDE 'Still Holding'

PA182108 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Eden Pastora told Radio Impacto today at noon that his forces are maintaining control over the Port of San Juan del Norte, adding that he has no intention of holding this position. Commander Pastora made the following statements to Radio Impacto:

[Begin Pastora recording] We are still defending San Juan del Norte at noon today while we make preparations for a peripheral defense. We began those preparations as soon as we occupied San Juan del Norte because our aim is not to hold or defend positions. Our guerrilla warfare is aimed against all Soviet and Cuban domination in Nicaragua. We will not be able to (?achieve) this until the technical resources allow us to make authentic advances that will enable us to defend positions. We are defending San Juan del Norte according to a guerrilla plan that we have been following during this year of struggle.

Tomas Borge, the nine national vipers and traitors, the new Adolfo Diaz [Nicaraguan president at the beginning of the century], the new nuts, are saying that we left for Costa Rica by sea. It is impossible that we left San Juan del Norte by sea by force or by choice, because there were 12 vessels there, including French, Soviet, and other vessels which have been given to the Managua dictatorship. We withdrew to our positions in the mountains, taking the companeros of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the Sandinist People's Militias [MPS], whom we are going to turn over to the IRC and to their parents. We will not turn them over unless their parents come as a precaution, because the totalitarian directorate in Managua could make them disappear as it did the companeros of Monimbo, or the ones that were in (Aloa) waiting for a chance to get through. We do not want the same thing to happen as in the case of the companeros that we turned over in the past when we took (Aloa) [word indistinct] what's its name. We are going to turn them over to the IRC and to their relatives, regardless of the fact that many of them will join us, that others will ask for political asylum in Costa Rica, and that others will return home. All this is part of our policy of offering the fraternal treatment that the Sandinist revolutionaries offer to the companeros of the glorious MPS that continue to die because of the irresponsibility of the National Directorate. [pause]

We therefore hold that today at noon we are still maintaining control over San Juan del Norte. Our aim is not to defend this position. Our aim is to control the 50 or 60 km of coastline. That is why we are conducting a guerrilla offensive in those coasts of the Caribbean. We will defend those 50 or 60 km of coastline and San Juan del Norte following the pattern and the tactics of guerrilla warfare. That is what we can do with the technical resources we possess. We cannot devote ourselves to defending positions against the Soviet helicopters, the cannons, machine guns, abundant rounds of ammunition, and the many mortars and howitzer shells which we have not been able to obtain from the so-called democrats. I am going to make a pause.

It is clear that today at noon we are still holding San Juan del Norte -- no matter how many lies and deceptions the Directorate may speak of through its media, which is the only voice that the Nicaraguan people have access to, but which obstructs the flow of information.

A revolutionary greeting for all from the 10,000 peasants that are fighting from honorable, nationalist, anti-imperialist, revolutionary, and democratic positions, from the members of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE. [end recording]

This has been a statement by Commander Eden Pastora, who has said that he and his troops are maintaining control over San Juan del Norte although they do not intend to hold that position.

ARDE Withdraws

PA182102 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2024 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpts] San Jose, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander Eden Pastora has announced that he abandoned San Juan del Norte today, Holy Wednesday, at noon (1800 GMT) because he could no longer make a stand against the actions of the gunboats, patrol boats, boats, aircraft and helicopters that attacked him for 3 days. He then added that the San Juan del Norte plaza will be included in the guerrilla plan which has proven to be effective.

ANTI-SANDINISTS PREPARE 'HOLY WEEK ASSAULT'

PA181607 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1427 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- According to the spokesmen of various Nicaraguan guerrilla groups, they are currently trying to maintain their positions, awaiting a stronger reaction from the Sandinist Army, after which they plan to launch a "Holy Week Assault" on all fronts. According to the rebel forces, preparations are currently underway "both on the war fronts and within the various clandestine organizations, which have proven their efficiency in the course of the operations carried out in ports and cities in the interior."

Spokesmen of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) claim to have learned that Sandinist leaders have held "a meeting behind closed doors" in Managua, where they decided to launch a simultaneous offensive against the rebel groups. Both insurgent groups agree that they will have to face certain problems in the next few days, but they expect to have enough men and resources to resist and take the initiative afterward. To this end, the FDN claims to have various reserve task forces and 1,000 new combatants ready to begin fighting immediately.

Apparently the dates for the Sandinist and rebel operations are not yet known, but they are expected to begin within 48 hours. Once the results of the "Holy Week Assault" have been weighed, the FDN people expect to begin talking about a national reconciliation government rather than about a provisional revolutionary government that might exclude some democratic organizations engaged in the struggle to overthrow the current government in Managua, it has been learned in this capital.

The members of the ARDE directorate, whose military leader is Commander Eden Pastora and whose political leader is Alfonso Robelo, have not expressed any opinion about the possibility announced by the FDN fighters in the north.

Regarding the military situation in San Juan del Norte, they indicate that although the position of the recently occupied port is important, they must not concentrate their efforts on defending it at the expense of neglecting the security of the other 6,000 square km of territory that is under the control of their armed forces. They add that they will not withdraw from any front and that, moreover, in San Juan del Norte Commander "Tito" Chaverri has repelled several attacks by the government troops, the last one of which was a land attack launched by a 300-man army unit.

San Juan del Norte, which was occupied last Friday, has also been attacked from the air, but pilots failed to hit their targets because they feared being hit by the surface-to-air missiles that the forces of Eden Pastora, better known as Commander Cero, now have.

Meanwhile, ARDE fighters have been active in the areas of Nueva Guinea, Punta Gorda, and other northern villages at the same time that the Miskitos, Sumu, and Rama Indians that make up Misurasata [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity] have been making incursions into territories held by the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, training and arming people for the "Easter Week Onslaught," Misurasata spokesmen have reported.

The Indians, who are very familiar with the Atlantic region's terrain, say that they have set up pockets of resistance north of Matagalpa's Grande River in well-guarded EPS territory.

According to representatives of other rebel organizations, including the Third Path Movement, M-3; the Nicaraguan Republican Union, URN; the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance, RIDEN; and the Nicaraguan Internal Resistance, RIN, "the fall of the Managua government seems to be taking place sooner than expected." In addition to this, they maintain that they have the resources to launch small-scale operations that "will undoubtedly affect the result of the upcoming hostilities positively." These small groups of Nicaraguan oppositionists are offering to augment their military participation in accordance with the support they receive from the larger organizations.

ARDE'S ROBELO OFFERS TRUCE IF MANAGUA NEGOTIATES

PA181339 Paris AFP in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Apr 84

[By Edouard Pons]

[Text] Paris, 17 Apr (AFP) -- The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), which is currently fighting the Managua government in the southeastern part of the country, is "willing to stop the war immediately if the Sandinist front agrees to establish public negotiations," Alfonso Robelo, the organization's political leader, told AFP today.

In an exclusive interview granted to this agency, Robelo, who arrived last night in Paris for a 3-day visit, also indicated that the eventual formation of a provisional government -- which should be organized within 90 days, according to Commander Eden Pastora -- "is a political possibility and to a large extent will depend on the course of the military operations." "We would have to seize not only San Juan del Norte (seized by ARDE on Saturday) for a long enough period of time, but other important sites and ports on the Atlantic as well, which is what we plan to do," he added.

Asked about the aid which, according to certain media reports, the United States provided to ARDE so it could seize San Juan del Norte, Robelo asserted that ARDE "does not receive aid from the U.S. Government, but it does from U.S. citizens." "If the U.S. Government uses French, Spanish, Venezuelan, or Mexican citizens or organizations, for instance, to supply us with aid, that is a matter that we have neither investigated nor care to investigate," he went on. "What we can guarantee is that we ourselves give the orders; we don't receive orders from anyone," he stressed.

"We have held contacts with Washington, especially at the level of the U.S. Congress, and we have maintained relations with the administration. We do not conceal the fact that we have requested aid under our conditions, but so far that aid has not reached us," he added.

Robelo, a former member of the Nicaraguan Junta of National Reconstruction, said that 450 ARDE men participated in the seizure of San Juan "in a war fought with our bare hands." According to him, ARDE lost 4 men in combat while the Managua regime lost 16 army troops killed in combat and 60 others were taken prisoner. Of the latter, 47 expressed their desire to join ARDE's ranks. Pastora's men also recovered many Soviet weapons, especially SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles, he asserted.

ARDE has over (?3,000) men -- it had 380 last May -- and controls 110 km of border along the San Juan River and 6,000 square km of additional land, he indicated. "The area is covered by very thick tropical jungle, sparsely populated and with little economic activity, but excellent for conducting guerrilla warfare," he added.

"Even though we are at the peak of our military thrust we are willing to stop the war immediately if the FSLN agrees to sit down at the negotiating table. Our sole condition is that there be freedom of the press in Nicaragua so that the people can be well informed," Robelo said. He added that the talks could be held "in the presence of a prominent leader, such as a member of Socialist International, perhaps a Latin American, such as a representative of the president of Venezuela."

The talks would specifically center on the participation of everyone, without exception -- meaning all those who are in good standing with the law -- in the elections that are scheduled to take place in Nicaragua on 4 November, on the separation of the party and the state, and especially on the separation of the Army and the party, Robelo indicated.

They would also discuss the "Latin American supervision of the entire electoral process, which could be delegated to the Contadora Group (Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama), and the reestablishment of all the liberties that have been restricted or totally suppressed, particularly the suspension of press censorship and an end to the institutionalized repression," Robelo added, while insisting on ARDE's "flexibility."

Queried on the possibility that the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, could participate in an ARDE provisional government, he said that ARDE "is willing to incorporate democratic Nicaraguans who are true representatives with popular support." "We have not considered the FDN specifically. This does not mean we disregard the fact that within the [FDN] civilian leadership there are valuable people," he added, stressing the word "civilian."

"ARDE and the FDN are two independent organizations. We have held official talks aimed at achieving a merger. So far, we have not achieved it, and there is no military coordination," he stated. "We are not counterrevolutionaries. We do not accept being called counterrevolutionaries. We are anti-Sandinists. We are revolutionaries, democrats, and authentic nationalists who are struggling to achieve the democratic rescue of a revolution that was betrayed," he emphasized.

In conclusion, he was asked about the possibility that he might be appointed head of a provisional government. Robelo replied that he would "work where his friends think best," adding that he would "not shirk any responsibility."

Robelo plans to meet in Paris with political and union leaders during what he called "a mission of peace." "We are seeking multi-partisan support in order to achieve peace in Nicaragua through a political resolution," he said. So far he has been to Madrid, Rome, London, and Bonn, where he met with political leaders of several parties, form Christian Democrats to Socialists, as well as with union and religious personalities.

ARDE ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LAUNCH NEWS AGENCY

PA180351 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2310 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Apr (EFE) -- Eden Pastora wishes to take advantage of the capture of San Juan del Norte to launch an international political, diplomatic, and information campaign, Jesus Puente, Mexican representative of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), has told EFE.

Puente, a Mexican businessman who says that Pastora appointed him his representative in Mexico, said that an ARDE news agency will be established soon to publicize the activities of the alliance's political, diplomatic, and military activities. He said that political and diplomatic work began with the tour through Europe by Alfonso Robelo and Donald Castillo, allies of Pastora, and the news agency will be launched in the next few weeks.

Puente said that the "agency" will be in charge of disseminating the news of ARDE's struggle in several European and Latin American countries, including Mexico, and continuing a propaganda campaign initiated by Pastora 2 months ago in the United States. Pastora's representative said that with the taking of San Juan del Norte, Commander Cero began his offensive to conquer the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, in addition to laying the bases for a world-wide propaganda campaign. Puente said that Pastora will, after consolidating his position in San Juan del Norte, continue his offensive toward Bluefields.

The ARDE representative in Mexico denied that Pastora is receiving U.S. aid but did not rule out the possibility that he would accept it. He emphasized, however, that this would be "without making a complete commitment." He said that some 8,000 men are following Commander Cero, but he did not know whether they are all armed.

ARDE DENIES CUADRA STATEMENT ON FDN AID

PA181834 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] receives no aid from the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] Joaquin Cuadra, a foppish braggart from Atravesada Street in Granada, who is the current deputy defense minister of the Managua misgovernment, has said that ARDE requested military aid from the FDN in order to keep its stronghold in San Juan del Norte. That obviously ill intentioned statement aimed at creating confusion among our people and in friendly democratic countries by linking us directly with the FDN, which is fighting in northern Nicaragua, is completely unfounded. Therefore, it should be given no credence, because we have no ties with that organization.

ARDE is an organization of political parties, labor unions, and ethnic peasant and Indian groups from our Atlantic coast. It is singularly representative of our homeland. It is a democratic and revolutionary organization. ARDE, above all, advocates the rescue of the betrayed Nicaraguan revolution. Our people would be the first to learn about any ARDE rapprochement with other organizations over our radio station, the Voice of Sandino, the official voice of ARDE.

MALMIERCA RETURNS, HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

FL181430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Cuba's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has described the mining of Nicaraguan ports as a serious violation of international law, and reiterated Cuba's decision to cooperate with any efforts which will avoid greater disasters for Central America. Malmierca said the Contadora Group is fighting for peace in Central America and that Cuba endorses these efforts, having publicly supported them from the beginning.

At a Havana press conference for Cuban and foreign reporters, Malmierca reported the results of his recent trip to Africa and Europe. He said that as soon as threats to Angola and Ethiopia end, Cuban troops will return home. He added that Cuban troops are in these countries because they were asked to be there, and it is up to Angola and Ethiopia to decide when the threat has ended. The Cuban foreign minister visited Ghana, Upper Volta, and France at the invitation of his counterparts in those countries.

Discusses African Situation

FL182050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Cuba's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has given a press conference on returning from visiting Ghana, Upper Volta, and France. He said that during his tour, he had numerous exchanges of opinions with those countries' leaders on the international situation.

The many joint communiques issued after Malmierca's visit to Ghana and Upper Volta reflect an important agreement of opinion on this region's problems, including the maintenance of peace, Africa's national liberation struggle, solidarity with the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Sagui el Hamra and Rio de Oro Front, Western Sahara] SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], the ANC [African National Congress, South Africa and Zambia], and condemnation of Washington's aggressions.

The communiques also reflected a repudiation of Washington's escalated aggression in Central America and support for the Contadora Group.

Malmierca emphasized that he had wide ranging conversations with French leaders, who agreed that there is a need for urgency in finding a peaceful solution to the Central American situation.

Responding to reporters' questions on various subjects, Malmierca upheld the Cuban Foreign Ministry's position. In responding to a question on whether South Africa would, over the short term, leave the occupied territory of Namibia, Malmierca said:

[Begin Malmierca recording] South Africa's actions indicate that it will keep troops in Angola, and South Africa has not taken the necessary steps toward implementing the contents of UN Resolution 435 on the Namibian independence process. We do not think that steps in this direction will be taken soon, it is not something which will take place in the near future. This situation will require the maintenance of solidarity with the Namibian people's struggle for independence, especially solidarity with the only legitimate representative of the Namibian peoples, SWAPO. [end recording]

Malmierca also made reference at the press conference to imperialism's aggressive character. He said that U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirpatrick had said that the only solution to the Central American crisis was through war.

[Begin Malmierca recording] These threats, which we sometimes hear from President Reagan and his aides, indicate what the United States' intentions are and how increasingly serious steps are taken in escalating aggressions against the peoples of Central America. We believe that we should try to mobilize international public opinion and all governments in order to try to stop these aggressive actions against both the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran peoples. We must make evident and condemn the role which the United States plays against any peaceful political solution in the Central American situation and its blocking of the Contadora Group's efforts. [end recording]

Says No Troops to Nicaragua

PA190415 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0323 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Havana, 18 Apr (EFE) -- Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has ruled out sending Cuban troops to Nicaragua, even if the United States directly intervenes in that country.

In a news conference, Malmierca recalled remarks in this regard which were made some months ago by Fidel Castro, who said that Cuba does not have sufficient sea or air capability to provide military support to the Sandinists. "And the difference between the U.S. and Cuban military potential has not changed," Malmierca added.

The Cuban foreign minister insisted on his government's support for the Contadora Group peace efforts but he said that Havana has yet to receive any official communication from the Contadora foreign ministers for a possible visit to Cuba. Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega last night announced that the four Contadora foreign ministers (Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia) plan to travel to Cuba and the United States soon. "There has so far not been any contact or effort for this visit but we have always expressed our willingness to cooperate," Isidoro Malmierca said.

He denounced "the escalation of U.S. aggressions against Nicaragua" and the "transformation of Honduras into a virtually occupied territory with permanent maneuvers." The foreign minister insisted that "it is very important that international public opinion be moblized to stop the aggressive U.S. actions against Nicaragua and El Salvador."

Another area of Cuban foreign policy that was discussed during the unusual news conference was Africa, specifically the presence of Cuban soldiers in Ethiopia and Angola. Malmierca said that he personally does not know how many Cuban soldiers are stationed in those two countries so he did not comment on the news reports that indicate that Cuba has noticeably reduced the number of its troops in Ethiopia to transfer them to Angola.

Regarding their permanence in Angola, Malmierca reiterated that the Cubans will stay there until conditions of peace and security are created, something that in his opinion South Africa has yet to guarantee. He added that the Pretoria government has not withdrawn its troops from southern Angola, thus failing to fulfill the commitment established in the agreement on the separation of forces signed in Lusaka between Angola and South Africa on 16 February.

The Cuban foreign minister stressed that the problems of Angola and Ethiopia "are not isolated problems" because "if the borders of these countries had been modified by actions of force, it would have created very grave precidents for the political stability of the entire continent."

The minister recalled that the Cuban troops have been in Angola since 1975 and in Ethiopia since 1977 and in both cases their presence there responds to a request from the governments threatened by invasions from neighboring countries.

BELGIAN DELEGATION MEETS WITH EDUCATION MINISTER

FL181543 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and minister of education, has met with the Belgian Parliament delegation which is visiting Cuba, invited by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

(Isidor Engels Miers), president of the Belgian Friendship Group and head of the delegation, spoke about the achievements attained by Cuba in the field of education, and thanked the Cubans for the courtesies during his brief visit to the Ministry of Education.

The Belgian delegation is composed of representatives from the Liberal, Christian-Democratic, and Social Democratic parties of the Parliament's two houses.

MENENDEZ TOMASSEVICH GIVES MILITIA DAY SPEECH

FL182036 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1528 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Speech by Division General Raul Menendez Tomassevich, member of the party Central Committee and deputy FAR minister, at the Camilo Cienfuegos FAR Artillery School parade grounds during a ceremony commemorating the 23d anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist nature of the revolution and Militia Day -- live]

[Text] Comrade Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the party and FAR minister; comrade members of the Politburo; comrades sitting at the presiding stand, comrades: The proclamation of the socialist nature of our revolution and Militia Day has become an occasion devoted to confirming our irreversible decision of struggle, during which we pay tribute to the collective heroism of our people.

Amid the din of the battle to preserve our revolutionary gains, this commemoration -- whose roots are expressed in military traditions and made a reality by the new generations of Cubans - was forged 23 years ago. Those generations of Cubans expressed their willingness to defend the fatherland and the revolution by joining the Territorial Troops Militia. The militia members and Rebel Army soldiers, who yesterday hardened their spirit on the glorious sands of Playa Giron and fought a heroic battle against the mercenaries of Yankee imperialism, are the same who today join their sons in this impressive people's Army of the Cuban revolution.

That beautiful symbol which represents the historic continuity of the revolution and is a guarantee of its irreversible advance, the example set by workers, peasants, professionals, and youths who are heroes of Playa Giron, and the generous blood which yesterday sealed the command to the present fatherland's soldiers reproduces itself with the same speed that the heroic sea of rifles was raised at Fidel's call to defend the revolution of the humble, by the humble, and for the humble.

Today, when the imperialist threat is being ostensibly manifested, we are optimistic, as we were before, because we know we are stronger and better prepared to defend our gains and support the decision of freely and honorably building a socialist fatherland. In the meantime, we do not forget that the enemy is arrogant, as it was more than a century ago when as a result of the Monroe Doctrine it launched the slogan "America for the Americans." Not it is trying to revive the darkest intentions of political subjugation and merciless economic exploitation of the peoples beyond the Bravo River by dusting off the gunboat policy to attempt taking by force that which it is no longer possible to take by other means.

The growing demands of the Latin American and Caribbean whites, blacks, mulattoes, and Indians to live in truly democratic and independent societies cannot be ignored.

To follow the worst of the concepts and doctrines of some U.S. rulers who preceded him has not been enough for Reagan and his closest collaborators. He is attempting to go much further by imposing by force the restoration of the capitalist -- without paying attention to today's realities -- at a time when such insane policy can only lead to the holocaust of the peoples, including the Americans.

For that reason, we are living through critical and difficult times as a result of the premeditated intentions of the White House's Machiavellian to encourage or revive the so-called regional focuses of tension, such as those in Central America, southern Africa, and the Middle East, among many others. Without disregarding the tense situation created in Europe with the deployment of medium range missiles in western countries, it is obvious he is trying to break the arms strategic balance so that later he can subject the world to blackmail.

Lacking a real desire to find a political solution in the Central American problem, defying the international and this hemisphere's demands, and ignoring the actions being advocated by the countries of the so-called Contadora Group, the U.S. President has undertaken the path of arms to settle a conflict whose roots can be found in the unjust inequalities brought about by the master-and-owner policy imposed over the years by Yankee rulers. The most insensitive political blindness is the only explanation for the misunderstanding of truths and realities of our times.

He has created a real state of war in Central America, although in so doing he has avoided or violated his own country's laws, not to mention the contempt he has shown for international public opinion.

We are witnessing a permanent U.S. military presence, an open escalation of intervention to put pressure on the revolutionary movements and on the triumphant Sandinist revolution, and also to be able to take action against those movements and against Nicaragua. The continuous military maneuvers in the region are a clear demonstration of declared objectives, as can be seen in the Grenadier I maneuvers undertaken by the United States together with its servants from the military base into which Honduras has been transformed.

But it appears that this impudent form of meddling is not sufficient for the Reagan administration to attain its goals, and it has unleashed an undeclared war against Nicaragua, channeling all support and aid through the CIA to the counterrevolutionary groups operating from neighboring countries.

The warmongering policy of the White House resident has reached the extreme of approving the mining of Nicaraguan ports, defying by this act the most essential norms of international law. This irrational action has provoked universal rebuff, including that of his closest allies and even of Republican and Democratic congressmen in the United States.

At this time, such immoral behavior appears to have stopped but, knowing the conduct of those who misgovern in Washington and that so far there has been no official word of acknowledgement of direct involvement in the mining, much less an explicit commitment of discontinuing this real state terrorism, the international community has the moral obligation to condemn the aggressor, give assistance to a sovereign state which is the victim of a genocide aggression without precedent, demand from the United States respect for the peoples' right to follow the path they choose -- such as that of the Salvadoran patriots to struggle against poverty and oppression -- and still more, demand that it put an end to the indecent military meddling in Central America and not place any more obstacles in the path to a negotiated and just solution to the regional problem.

As is well known, Cuba supports that path as a valid alternative which would avoid a war of incalculable consequences.

Comrades, in the face of the insane intentions of the present U.S. Government, in the face of its arrogant pretensions as universal gendarme, in the face of its bitter hatred for our revolution, our people will use against all that, as an impassable bulwark, their decision to struggle, their communist consciousness, their dignity and patriotism as weapons of incalculable might against which the entire arsenal of imperialism would be useless.

They are stubbornly mistaken when they establish mathematical correlations and ignore, as they did 23 years ago in Playa Giron, that our people's combat morale, their unswerving principles, their ideology, and their loyalty to the revolution, party, and to our commander in chief are unchangeable.

We have a hardened and modern FAR which, with their reserves and Territorial Troops Militia, constitutes the nucleus of our defense system which, in recent years, has been harmoniously and precisely structured into an unquestionable reality, an organization for training and preparing the country to wage the people's war, if it becomes necessary.

The weapons of our enemy might try to destroy the revolutionary work, as happened in Giron, but the noble ideals -- which will survive as battle flags for other people's heroes who emerge in the continued and immortal renewal of victories -- will not be destroyed. We are a peace-loving people because peace is the essential premise of our effort to build a society more humane and just than any other.

In vocation and in principle, we reject war and everything which tends to destroy man's integrity and the marvelous fruit of his talent and creative work. But in the face of the alternatives of being subjected to the pressures and blackmail of a mighty and unscrupulous enemy or fighting to the last man or woman in defense of the revolution, we would 1,000 times over prefer the alternative of combat.

We will kneel and bow our heads, as unforgettable Commander Camilo Cienfuegos said, before the memory of our heroes and martyrs to tell them that their fruitful example multiplies day after day in the honorable fulfillment of defense tasks, of our internationalist vocation, and in the daily heroism of men and women who with dedication and effort make a reality the dreams of those who preceded us in the struggle.

Our people hope for those glories, for the glory of peaceful and creative work. But if imperialism in its irrational anti-Cuban policy would again make the historic mistake of attacking our fatherland and once again impose warfare upon us, with the same decision, strengthened by the country's socioeconomic development and with our improved defensive capability, Giron's combat glories would be renewed.

If they dare to trample the fatherland's soil, death and defeat await them here, because that militia oath made on 16th of April represented the will of an entire nation to defend the revolution, and it will be renewed in that immortal watchword: Wherever it might be, whichever way, and for whatever reason, commander in chief, we are at your orders. Fatherland or death, we shall win! [prolonged applause]

WEATHER, IMPURITIES CAUSE LOW SUGAR FIGURES

FL182148 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Sugar harvest report by Rolando de la Rivera]

[Text] During the first 10-day period in April, nation-wide sugar processing was 80 percent of capacity. The lowest sugar processing figures were reported in Camaguey, Cienfuegos, Holguin, and Santiago de Cuba Provinces.

Large quantities of foreign matter were found in sugar processed in Sancti Spiritus, Camaguey, Las Tunas, and Ciego de Avila Provinces. Camaguey Province experienced the lowest production due to insufficient sugarcane. Rain and faulty equipment contributed negatively in almost all other provinces.

The sugar quantity problem was felt most critically in the sugar processing plants of Republica Dominica, Haiti, Candido Gonzalez, Panama, Batalla de las (Huasimas), but the most alarming situation was found in the Ramon Balboa Plant, Cienfuegos Province, which lost almost a quarter of its time -- 6 hours daily -- because of lack of sugarcane.

Sugarcane cutters, combine operators, sugarcane related transport workers, and other workers who belong to the processing plants depend a great deal on these cooperative processing plants' resolving the problems. The only agro-industrial cooperative which consumed gasoline was the Urbano Norris plant in Holguin Province, which used a total of 139,600 gallons.

U.S. WARSHIP REPORTED EN ROUTE TO HONDURAS

PA181416 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The U.S. frigate McInerney, with a crew of more than 200, has arrived in the Costa Rican Port of Limon en route to Honduras.

Costa Rican news sources have linked the arrival of the U.S. warship with an increase in the war activities of the counterrevolutionary groups based in Costa Rica that are launching an offensive against southern Nicaragua.

The same sources have said that Port Limon is located in Barra del Colorado, on the border with Nicaragua. It has been charged that it was from this area that the anti-Sandinist forces that attacked the Nicaraguan Port of San Juan del Norte left to carry out the aggression.

OFFICIALS CITED ON MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS

PA140124 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has demanded an end to operations against Nicaragua, particularly the mining of the ports, because they give the United States a bad name and worry its allies.

Similar words were used by FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc to describe their feelings. The two men expressed support for a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis and added that the mining of the Nicaraguan ports is an attack on the norms of international law.

In Amsterdam the Netherlands parliament described the blockade of Nicaraguan [word indistinct] as a serious attack on the freedom of international navigation and objected to the U.S. decision to ignore the ruling of the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Further Condemnation

PA161329 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] In Tokyo, the Japanese Committee of Solidarity with the countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America has sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan asking for an immediate halt to the U.S. armed intervention against Nicaragua.

The Portuguese weekly newspaper O JORNAL has described U.S. participation in the mining of Nicaraguan ports as state terrorism and has condemned Washington's attitude in the face of the world's repudiation of such actions, which attack the most basic rules of coexistence.

Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said during a televised interview that the mining of Nicaraguan ports is legal and stated that U.S. troops will not intervene directly in Central America unless vital U.S. interests are endangered.

A UK newspaper, THE SUNDAY TIMES, has said that Constantine C. Menges, a specialist on Latin America matters, who is a member of President Reagan's security advisory council, played a very important role in drafting the dirty plans against Nicaragua. Menges was one of the brains behind the mining of the Nicaraguan ports, the newspaper added.

U.S. Legal Group Cited

FL141340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] One of the principal U.S. legal organizations, the North American Association of International Law [Asociacion Norte Americana de Derecho Internacional], has passed a resolution condemning the Reagan administration's decision to defy international law by mining Nicaragua's ports. The association deplores the White House decision to ignore the International Court at The Hague, which is reviewing a case put forth by Nicaragua, stating that the CIA's covert war against Nicaragua is illegal.

The president of the association said that this was the first occasion in its 78 years of existence that the North American Association of International Law had condemned an action by the U.S. Government.

The resolution this association passed was evidently in response to U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirpatrick's statement that the United States and other Central American nations have the right to exercise what she called individual and collective self-defense against Nicaragua's aggression.

Mexican Congress Rejects Mining

FL130234 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City -- The Permanent Committee of the Mexican Congress has firmly rejected the mining of Nicaraguan ports in a foreign policy debate. Yesterday the commission passed a reslution condemning this action and demanding the immediate removal of the mines, the reparation of economic damage caused by the United States, and the submission of this incident to decision by the International Court. During the debate, PRI Deputy Jose Luis de la Madrid described the incident as a violation of the freedom of the seas. He added that the incident was startling to the political and juridical conscience and said that the U.S. Government should take this incident to The Hague court.

8,000 'CIA-SUPPORTED' CONTRAS INVADE NICARAGUA

FL131412 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] More than 8,000 counterrevolutionaries supported by the CIA are inside Nicaragua, and some groups have even penetrated to central areas of that Central American nation. The statement was made by Commander Tomas Borge, who said the CIA has organized an enormous logistic apparatus for the operation in order to supply arms, ammunition, information, foodstuffs, and communications to its mercenary army. The Nicaraguan interior minister added that in January and February alone of this year the physical losses caused by the CIA mercenaries surpassed the $28 million which, added to previous damages, amount to more than $250 million. The Nicaraguan minister noted that during those 2 months 219 Sandinist combatants were killed and 204 were wounded.

The vice minister of defense and chief of general staff of the Sandinist People's Army, Joaquin Cuadra, reported that all of the northern part of Nicaragua is in a state of war and is facing up to the largest offensive ever launched by the counterrevolution. The Sandinist leader denied that two towns, one to the north and the other to the south of Managua, had been captured by counterrevolutionary forces. He pointed out that the Somozists have suffered more than 310 casualties in battles that have taken place since mid-March.

EVENTS IN NICARAGUA'S SAN JUAN DEL NORTE VIEWED

PA141800 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan news agency ANN has stated that during the past 4 days Sandinist troops have defended San Juan del Norte from attacks by counterrevolutionary forces. San Juan del Norte has 500 inhabitants.

The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) counterrevolutionary group said yesterday that it had taken San Juan del Norte. The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has denied this report.

It was reported from San Jose that several wounded mercenaries are being attended in hospitals at Cuidad Quezada in northern Costa Rica. It was also reported that the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry has received a note from Nicaragua charging that Costa Rican territory is being used for preparations for the attack against the Nicaraguan Port of San Juan del Norte.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

LOW ELECTION TURNOUT; OVERWHELMING ALP WIN

FL181330 Bridgetown CANA in English 0449 GMT 18 Apr 84

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] St John's, Antigua, April 18 (CANA) -- The Antigua Labour Party of veteran Prime Minister Vere Cornwall Bird made light work of a fragmented opposition to score a resounding 16-1 win in yesterday's general elections here.

The virtual clean sweep fulfilled pre-election predictions and secured a third consecutive five-year term for the ALP.

The only seat the ALP did not win was the lone one on the sister island of Barbuda, which was taken by Independent Eric Burton. None of the parties in fact contested the seat.

Prime Minister Bird, his sons Lester and Vere Jr and all former ministers won handsomely as the two-year-old United People's Movement (UPM) of ex-Premier George Walter and Robert Hall's Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) put in a poor showing. Hall lost his seat.

The ALP had 13 of the 17 seats in the last Parliament, with three held by the PLM and Barbuda by Burton.

With official figures not yet fully tabulated, preliminary statistics indicate a low turn-out by voters.

Just over 30,000 names are on the voters register, slightly more than 28,906 of the 1980 poll when nearly 78 percent of the electorate cast their ballots.

Observers here had earlier pointed to apparent voter apathy particularly with the failure this month of efforts by three opposition parties to forge a united front to fight the election.

Walter's UPM, Hall's PLM, both centre-right, and the leftwing Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) of Tim Hector, were on the verge of announcing their alliance when the talks broke down.

The PLM withdrew ostensibly over the allocation of seats in the election.

Perhaps the major casualties of the election were Hall's defeat by a political newcomer, Molwyn Joseph, and Walter's failure to return to Parliament after having to give up the seat in 1979 when he was convicted of misbehaviour in public office while being premier from 1971-76. Walter won at appeal.

Officials close to the government reject suggestions that the low turn-out reflected a weakness in the body politic and disenchantment with the government.

They point to the fact that some incumbent ALP parliamentarians were in fact able to increase in absolute terms, their numbers of votes.

Dr Pat Lewis, a social scientist who is adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird said: "The ALP has won a tremendous mandate. The low vote is a rejection of the opposition."

JAMAICA

DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING ACCORD SIGNED WITH ITALY

FL162150 Bridgetown CANA in English 1751 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 16 (CANA) -- Jamaica and Italy have signed an agreement for a soft loan of 10 million U.S. dollars and five million U.S. dollars in grants and lines of credit for economic development programmes. The loan is to be repaid at the rate of 2.5 per cent over a 15-year period with a two-year moratorium. The announcement was made in Kingston at a press conference by Senator Susanna Agnelli, Italy's under-secretary of foreign affairs, who left today after a four-day visit.

The new agreement, which ends in 1986, follows phase one by which Jamaica benefited from a loan of 10 million U.S. dollars, which also involved a soft loan, lines of credit and grants, as well as the purchase of machinery and equipment. Phase two, Senator Agnelli said, will embrace the development of water resources, energy, agriculture, health, housing, and technical education training.

On the aspect of energy, she explained that priority will be given to the Jamaica public service plant at Old Harbour, where a technical team from Italy will be working. With the building of two mechanical training centres in the education programme, Senator Agnelli said, training will be done in mechanics and machinery maintenance, and personnel will be trained in technology of all kinds. Italy also plans to expand its scholarship programme to Jamaica with regard to housing, she said. The Senator said that Italy will be exporting its prefabricating technology to Jamaica.

CANADIANS TO GRANT FUNDS TO UPGRADE AIRPORTS

FL182154 Bridgetown CANA in English 1945 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 18 (CANA) -- A memorandum of understanding between Jamaica and Canada for the upgrading of facilities at the Norman Manley and Sangster International Airports here was signed yesterday by Public Utilities and Transport Minister Pearnel Charles and the Canadian high commissioner, David Reece. Under the agreement, Jamaica will be one of 13 Caribbean countries benefitting from a Canadian 75 million dollar grant to be executive by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The agreement provides for the supply of Canadian equipment, the training of airport personnel and the enhancement of airport facilities. The project will concentrate on four areas -- airport management and maintenance, fire-fighting and rescue, telecommunications and navigational aids, and runway improvement.

At the signing ceremony, Mr Charles said that the agreement was the culmination of surveys and studies which began in 1980 under a Caribbean airports maintenance and operations study prepared for the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICVO).

NSC WORKING ON DEBT RESCHEDULING PLANS

FL162252 Bridgetown CANA in English 2230 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 16 (CANA) -- The state-owned National Sugar Company (NSC) which is closing three factories at the end of the current crop, says it is now working on plans to reduce and reschedule its massive debt of over 259 million dollars (1 Jca dollar; 26 cents U.S.).

In a statement, the NSC said that talks are being held with the Ministry of Finance, bankers and other creditors with the aim of dealing with the debt situation. National Sugar which controls most of the sugar factories in the island has been experiencing serious financial difficulties in recent times, and it was recently announed that in the last financial year, it suffered a lost of 89 million dollars.

The announced sale of the three factories is aimed at making the company viable, a spokesman for the organisation hinted in a news release. The move follows the withdrawal of budgetary support to the company, a stricture from the government that all state entities must pay their way.

According to the NSC, the take-over of eight factories in the 1970's by the then government of the socialist People's National Party was done without a certain amount of corrective measures being taken.

The rise to power of the conservative Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) with its plan to sell off state-owned companies to private industry has done little to change the situation, as most companies remain steep in debt and unattractive to private capital.

When National Sugar acquired its factories between 1975 and 1978 the release said, there was already an outstanding debt of 11 million dollars. The factories were undercapitalised, there was insufficient managerial skills, over-staffing, low production and other problems. The company said that it will continue to do everything to keep its remaining factories in business.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

NETHERLANDS MINISTER ARRIVES ON 2-DAY VISIT

FL171342 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Holland's Minister for Antillean Affairs Mr Jan de Koning has arrived in the capital of Curacao, Willemstad, for a 2-day visit. His visit is linked with the failure of a round of talks between the Netherlands Antillean Islands about future cooperation after independence of the island of Aruba on January 1, 1986.

Mr De Koning will also discuss the size of the Dutch contribution to the solidarity fund for the smaller islands in the Caribbean. Currently, that contribution stands at 10 percent of the total but the Antillean authorities think this not enough.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS TO SEND DELEGATION TO GRENADA

FL052207 Bridgetown CANA in English 2019 GMT 5 Apr 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] San Fernando, Trinidad, April 5 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers announced today plans to send a non-partisan mission to Grenada to determine the Spice Isles aid requirements.

Chambers made the disclosure to reporters in San Fernando, Trinidad's second largest town, where he is spending a week before returning to the capital Port of Spain on Sunday.

The prime minister said he and opposition leader Basdeo Panday had agreed to the mission in the light of requests for various kinds of assistance from the interim administration in Grenada. It will be headed by retired High Court Judge Ulric Cross. The caretaker government was set up after last October's U.S.-led invasion to overthorw the Army which had taken power in a bloody military coup that claimed the life of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and more than 100 others.

Trinidad and Tobago opposed the military action by the U.S. and seven Caribbean nations.

Chambers said the decision to send a team to Grenada was made "without in any way attempting to compromise our stated position" on last October's events.

The delegation may comprise representatives from churches, the labour movement, youth and women's groups and government, opposition and independent senators. There will be no ministers or parliamentary secretaries.

Chambers said the mission was to "partically demonstrate our commitment to the people of Grenada." Port of Spain, he said, recognised it had some responsibility to assisting Grenadians in some form or another.

Teams from Grenada have already been to Port of Spain, one of the few Caribbean capitals so far visited by interim administration head Nicholas Brathwaite.

ENERGY MINISTER SEEKS TO IMPORT CRUDE OIL

FL121552 Bridgetown CANA in English 2212 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 11 (CANA) -- Oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago's energy minister, Patrick Manning, today said that progress had been made by the country to secure crude oil for refining here from Latin American neighbours Venezuela, Mexico and Ecuador. He did not say how much Trinidad was seeking to import, at a time when the country's two refineries' throughput is way below capacity. He told persons attending a seminar on the oil industry: "Final arrangements are still to be worked out."

The American-owned Texaco Trinidad Incorporated (Textrin) oil company's refinery at Point-a-Pierre, south Trinidad -- the larger of two here -- dealt mainly in imported crude.

Since it stopped importing crude saying this was too costly, government has been talking to oil producers as far away as Nigeria about possible crude supplies while it looks at rationalising this country's refining operation.

Manning said that Trinidad and Tobago's rationalization efforts must be seen in the context of the country's need to make efficient use of the existing refineries and "a substantial upgrading of processing facilities" to meet a changing pattern of product demand in favour of lighter fuels.

Throughput at the country's two refineries last year averaged 82,000 barrels per day or only 27 per cent of rated capacity.

The second refinery here is run by the state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc). It is in Point Fortin, some 70 miles south of here. Trintoc usually utilizes its own crude.

CALL MADE FOR RESTORATION OF LABOR GUARANTEES

FL171220 Bridgetown CANA in English 2010 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 16 (CANA) -- The Guyana Human Rights Association has called for the repeal of controversial labour legislation approved by Parliament last month. The act transfers the right to bargain for all public sector workers to the executive of the umbrella Trades Union Congress, which is currently controlled by unions supportive of the Forbes Burnham regime. The country's president is also given the power to determine public sector wages.

The association, one of whose presidents is Anglican Bishop Randolph George, said in a statement that the new law "undermines all effective forms of industrial action. Rather than address the social and economic crisis engulfing the nation, the government has chosen, by means of this legislation, to deprive working people of their traditional means of confronting the crisis," the association said.

It said the new measures represent the culmination of a series of restrictions imposed on organised labour in recent years. The cooperation of the labour movement is an essential prerequisite for economic recovery, the human rights watchdog body added.

In order for that cooperation to materialise, the (association) calls for the immediate revocation of the act and for the restoration of the following guarantee:

Acceptance of a free trade union movement independent of ruling party control.

The TUC must be allowed to represent freely associated trade unions in a democratic manner as is guaranteed in Convention No 87 of the International Labour Organisation to which the government is a signatory. This implies the exclusion of government ministers, senior public servants, and corporation executives from controlling positions in the TUC.

The right to strike and the right to work must be guaranteed.

The practice of dismissing workers for expressing critical views must stop.

Full information on the extent of the crisis must be made available to all organisations and all concerned must be allowed to express their opinions as a first step towards a solution to the crisis.

Freedom of the press and the right of independent publishers to disseminate these opinions must be restored.

WPA SAYS GOVERNMENT PLANS HAITIAN IMMIGRATION

FL182131 Bridgetown CANA in English 1918 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 18 (CANA) -- The small opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) has produced what it says is documentary evidence to support its contention that the Guyana Government plans to allow as many as 10,000 Haitians to come to this country to settle. This follows government's rejection of the claim by the leftist group, which said the Haitians might settle in the Essequibo area being claimed by neighbouring Venezuela.

Officials of the WPA showed reporters two documents, one they said bearing the signature of a former permanent secretary of the Regional Development Ministry, and the other purportedly from a Haitian to a relative here concerning the proposed move.

The letter, the party said, was from the permament secretary to Oscar Phillips, honorary consul for Guyana in the Bahamas, and dealt with the position of 143 Haitians who had been detained by the Bahamas Government in October 1977. According to that letter, Phillips was told that "any assistance given by the Government of Guyana would result in the Haitians being self-employed, i.e., working on their own, mainly in the field of agriculture." Phillips was told that Northfork, Potaro, was "the area in which consideration is being given to the settling of the Haitians." Potaro is in the Essequibo region.

The WPA also released a copy of another letter, said to be from a Haitian to a relative in Guyana, asking for "information on the Essequibo region."

A spokesman for the Guyana Foreign Ministry said there was no truth in the settlement claim, first [words indistinct] CATHOLIC STANDARD newspaper published by the Roman Catholic Church here, last November.

1984 FIRST QUARTER BAUXITE PRODUCTION LOW

FL121646 Bridgetown CANA in English 2301 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 11 (CANA) -- Guyana's 1984 first quarter bauxite production was well below target, but the industry surpassed projects for output of one grade of the ore, an official of the Guyana Mining Enterprise (GuyMine) said. The official said the company surpassed its calcined bauxite production target by six per cent, achieving a production of 121,870 tonnes, as against a projected target of 115,449 tonnes."

In the three-month period, the operations at Linden, 67 miles south of here, and in Berbice County, 68 miles east of here, produced 121,870 tonnes of refractory A-grade super calcine bauxite, and 11,666 tonnes of abrasive grade bauxite. Overall, Guyana produced 333,942 tonnes of bauxite in the first three months of 1984.

However, the official said the production of metal grade and chemical grade bauxite was less than what was projected: It totalled 200,406 tonnes instead of the anticipated 247,598 tonnes. "Between January and March GuyMine shipped 292,022 tonnes of bauxite products to overseas markets," he added. The bauxite exported comprises 109,232 tonnes of refractory A-grade super calcined bauxite, 115,848 tonnes of metal grade, 55,101 tonnes of chemical grade, and 11,841 tonnes of abrasive A-grade calcine bauxite.

For the first three months of this year, GuyMine's operations at Linden processed 194,733 tonnes of bauxite while the smaller Berbice operation accounted for an output of 139,209 tonnes.

The state-owned industry is aiming to produce 1,566,000 tonnes of bauxite this year, an increase of 495,743 tonnes on the 1983 output of 1,070,257 tonnes. Exports last year totalled 1,120,369 tonnes, a decline of nearly 380,000 tonnes on the 1982 foreign sales.